

AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE COIN HOBBY IN THE 1930S:

The Walter P. Nichols File



Edited by Q. David Bowers

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Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.

Credits

The editor expresses appreciation to the heirs to the collections of S. Benton Emery and Walter P. Nichols, who made available the correspondence file covering the numismatic activities of Walter P. Nichols from 1931 until his death a decade later. Typesetting for the book was done by Margaret Graf. Proofreading and graphics work were by Ruth L. Corrigan, Linda Heilig, Jane Scott and Sarah Whitten. Karl Hirtzinger and the staff of Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc., helped in many ways.

About the Editor

The editor of the Walter P. Nichols correspondence, Q. David Bowers, graduated in 1960 from the Pennsylvania State University and received in 1976 the Alumni Achievement Award from that institution's College of Business Administration. He served as president of the Professional Numismatists Guild 1977-1979 and is a recipient of the PNG's highest honor, the Founders' Award. A life member (No. 336) of the American Numismatic Association, he became a member of that organization's Board of Governors in 1979, was elected vice-president in 1981, and became president in 1983. His column, "Numismatic Depth Study," has appeared in *Coin World* for many years and has earned several "Best Columnist" awards given by the Numismatic Literary Guild. Another column appears monthly in *The Numismatist*. His by-line has appeared in all other major numismatic publications, including *Numismatic News*, *Coins Magazine*, and *CoinAge*. He has written the numismatic section of the *Encyclopedia Americana* and has written over a twenty books. With Raymond N. Merena, the author owns one of America's leading rare coin businesses, Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc. and the related auction firm, Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

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BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

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The Walter P. Nichols File

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Walter P. Nichols

Introduction

In the summer of 1984 the undersigned was privileged to work with other members of the Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc. staff to catalogue what must rank as one of the finest collections of United States coins ever to be offered for sale through bidding competition. Featured was the cabinet of S. Benton Emery, the father-in-law of the subject of the present text, to which Walter P. Nichols made many additions. To his credit and to the delight of numismatists of a later generation, Mr. Nichols preserved intact the marvelous array of 19th and early 20th-century Proof and other coins, many of which were obtained from the several mints at the time of issue.

Mr. Nichols, a Certified Public Accountant and bank examiner, traveled extensively through New England. He designated Maine as his official home, although he maintained a mailing address in Melrose, Massachusetts, simply because there was someone there to receive correspondence at all times.

The September 1941 issue of *The Numismatist* contained the following obituary:

WALTER P. NICHOLS. On August 8, 1941, Walter P. Nichols passed away, following an illness of several months [from a brain tumor]. Mr. Nichols was a life member of the American Numismatic Association, an associate member of the American Numismatic Society, past president of the Boston Numismatic Society, and also a former member of the Board of Governors of the ANA for the years 1939-1940. Mr. Nichols was ANA District Secretary for the State of Massachusetts.

Mr. Nichols was born 52 years ago in Somerville, Massachusetts. He attended the Somerville schools and was a graduate of Northeastern University. As a Certified Public Accountant he did much work for banks throughout New England. He was deputy sheriff for York County, Maine, an elective office, in which he was serving his fourth term.

In 1936 Mr. Nichols was very active in connection with the issue of the York County, Maine commemorative half dollar. In sponsoring the issue, he served as secretary and distributor for the commission.

Mr. Nichols was also active in fraternal societies, having held membership in the following: Wyoming Lodge (Melrose), Waverly Chapter (Melrose), Boston Council, St. Bernard Commandery (Boston), Boston-Lafayette Lodge of Perfection (senior warden), Giles F. Yates Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Mount Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix, Massachusetts Consistory, 33rd degree, and Aleppo Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

Mr. Nichols was known to a wide circle of numismatic friends and was particularly prominent in the collecting of rare United States coins and paper money. He is known to have many unusual and rare notes and a remarkably fine collection of early United States cents and silver.

As a collector Mr. Nichols attended several conventions during the past ten years and formed many friendships. He was one of the most popular of the convention-goers, and his friendly smile and handshake will be missed by many. Services for Mr. Nichols were held at the Waterman Chapel in Boston, the Rev. F.E. Charrier, of the North Parish Congregational Church, Sanford, Maine, officiating. His ashes will rest in Oakdale Cemetery, Sanford, Maine.

Mr. Nichols is survived by his widow, the former Faith E. Emery, whom he married in 1916, and two brothers, an uncle and a nephew.

Further information concerning the life of Walter P. Nichols was carried in the following issue of *The Numismatist*, October 1941:

WALTER P. NICHOLS. In the last issue of *The Numismatist* we noted the sad passing of Walter P. Nichols, life member of the ANA. We have been fortunate in securing some additional facts about Mr. Nichols, through the courtesy of several friends, and present them in this issue with his portrait.

Mr. Nichols was active in the work of the Boston Numismatic Society from the time of his election to membership in 1931 until his final illness prevented him from attending meetings. He was elected a vice-president of the society in 1935 and was most active in the handling of the Jubilee medal which the society issued in limited numbers, largely for presentation to other numismatic organizations. In 1936 he received a vote of thanks from the society in connection with the handling of this medal by his committee.

In 1936 Mr. Nichols was also very active in the distribution of the York County (Maine) half dollars, with which his name will be long associated and always kindly remembered.

In 1937 Mr. Nichols was elected president of the Boston Numismatic Society and served one term. His activities in numismatics won him the respect of all, and following his term on the ANA's Board of Governors Mr. Nichols might have become a candidate for higher office had not his health interfered.

Walter P. Nichols was not widely known, yet to the intimate circle that did have the privilege and opportunity of knowing him he was a true friend.

Mr. Nichols was what later became known as a vest-pocket dealer, trading in coins in addition to his main profession, that of accounting. He ran advertisements in *The Numismatist*, *Hobbies Magazine*, and in numerous New England newspapers seeking to buy and sell coins. Perhaps content with the knowledge that he possessed one of the finest personal collections of United States coins in existence, he elected not to mention or publicize this, although selected specimens were always available for displays or educational talks at society meetings and conventions. His commercial activities, as reflected by his correspondence, seemed to have been concentrated primarily on lower value coins. It is interesting today to read of such items as 1909-S V.D.B. and 1931-S cents being casually bought and sold by the dozens or by the hundreds. Years later each was to become an important scarcity or rarity in its own right.

When a nationwide interest in commemorative coins, particularly half dollars, arose in 1934-1935, Walter P. Nichols was in the forefront of activity. From this period through the next several years commemoratives accounted for most of his business. His correspondence with various official distributing commissions for these half dollars forms a fascinating archive and is interesting to read today. He was distributor in 1936 for the York commemorative half dollar, but little concerning this particular activity remained in the letters viewed by the compiler of the present volume.

Paper money formed a special interest for Mr. Nichols, and his correspondence with Albert A. Grinnell, a Detroit music dealer who owned over 40 stores and who was the pre-eminent paper money specialist of his day, can only be briefly excerpted in the following pages but sheds light on activity in this area during the decade of the 1930s, a time when paper money collecting was in its infancy. Correspondence with various specialists, Federal Reserve banks, and others indicates

that Mr. Nichols was actively preparing a reference book on large-size United States notes. Unfortunately, his untimely death precluded this from becoming a reality.

Correspondence with the Treasury Department reveals that the government agency was ready, willing, and able to supply interested collectors with specimens of coinage at or near the time of issue. Significantly, letters dated early in 1933 reveal the same inclination. Years later the government was to take the stance that 1933 double eagles could not be legally held because they were not officially released, but it seems to the present writer that existing correspondence indicates that had Mr. Nichols (or any other qualified buyer) desired to buy a 1933 double eagle in early March of that year, he could have done so. Indeed, one of his letters from the Treasury Department was accompanied by a report stating how many double eagles had been made up to that point—seemingly an invitation to submit an order!

Throughout the many years of existence (its roots date back to its organization in 1891), the American Numismatic Association has been characterized by personalities and politics. Any reader of modern-day numismatic periodicals cannot help but learn of the differences of opinion among various Board of Governors members, elected officials, and others. Perhaps this is as it should be, as the ANA is an organization of numismatists, by numismatists, and for numismatists, and no one said that all numismatists are created alike or have precisely the same thoughts. Correspondence with various ANA officials forms a large part of the existing Walter P. Nichols archive. The desire to avoid repetition, an editorial eye for what might be interesting to read now, and the huge quantity of material available combined in the present writer's mind to extract selected excerpts which give a flavor of ANA happenings during the late 1930s. To the credit of Mr. Nichols, he seems to have been absent from any "power plays" or attempts at self-importance or aggrandizement. Rather, he emerges as a quiet, distinguished person liked by all factions.

For the most part, the files of Walter P. Nichols consist of letters *received* by him. Undoubtedly, copies of letters *sent* in reply would be enlightening, but few such copies have survived. Spelling errors in the quoted letters have been corrected, but the original sentence structure and syntax have been retained. Omissions are indicated by ellipsis(...).

The editor has elected to present the correspondence in chronological order by the dates that the various letters were sent. This way there is an orderly progression of events as they actually transpired in Mr. Nichols' life. A case could be made for dividing correspondence concerning commemoratives, currency, and other topics into individual sections, but this would be at the expense of time flow sequence. On the following pages is a numismatic tour of the 1930s as seen through the eyes of Walter P. Nichols, a distinguished numismatist, dealer, and American citizen during these formative years in the coin hobby.

Q- David Bowers
Wolfeboro New Hampshire
September 6 1984

The Walter P. Nichols File

Correspondence from 1931

NORMAN SHULTZ
Salt Lake City, Utah

January 2, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your favor just at hand and I will be pleased to have your bids on any coming sales. Will try and treat you right.

The Federal Reserve notes I do not know just where I might locate them but will try. \$4.00 gold Proof about \$125 would be the best I could locate on one.

Thanking you and with best wishes for a very happy New Year,
Yours very truly,
Norman Shultz

Ed. Note: Norman Shultz engaged in coin dealing over a span of decades, and by the early 1980s was well-known as the dean of American professional numismatists. The above 1931 communication is in response to inquiries concerning Federal Reserve notes and a \$4 Stella.

* * *

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
535 North Sawyer Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

April 11, 1931

Dear Sir:

Your application for membership in the American Numismatic Association has been received, and as customary, your name will be published in the May issue of The Numismatist. If no objections are received you will become a member June 1-1931. Thanking you for your interest in our organization, I am,

Yours, very truly,
Harry T. Wilson
General Secretary

P.S. You will receive the magazine from January 1-1931. Am not able to give you A.N.A. No. 251, Sorry.

Ed. Note: The request was made for an earlier number, that belonging to his father-in-law S. Benton Emery.

* * *

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
Broadway Between 155th
and 156th Streets
New York

May 8, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It gives me special pleasure to inform you that at a meeting of the Council of the American Numismatic Society, held on May 8th, you were unanimously elected to Associate Membership, on the proposal made by Mr. Sydney P. Noe. Our constitution requires that acceptance of election be received within one month after notification.

Please be assured that we shall be happy to be of service in any possible way, and to welcome you at our Museum whenever you are in New York.

Very Truly yours,
Sydney P. Noe
Secretary

* * *

HENRY CHAPMAN
No. 333 South Sixteenth Street
Philadelphia

June 22nd, 1931.

Dear Sir,

Your letter was duly received and in reply beg to say I have a very large stock of the red back notes, but unfortunately do not have the Scott book to which you refer. Do you want the finest specimens I have, or are you satisfied with those cut close, slightly crooked or slightly soiled?

I have a very fine \$4. gold piece which has had a ring on the edge price \$85. One Brilliant, Uncirculated at \$115. Send me the set of Sanford notes with the quantity you have of each denomination and the price.

Yours very truly,
Henry Chapman

Ed. Note: Henry Chapman, who began in the coin business in the late 1870s, by 1931 was in the twilight years of his life. In earlier decades he and his brother (S. Hudson Chapman) were America's most prominent professional numismatists.

* * *

HERALDIC ARTISTS
Family Crest and Coats-of-Arms
233 Merritts Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

July 8, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of the 3rd received.

I could not say exactly how many of the Sanford Bank notes I could use at 25c each. However I will try 6 sets of them, and will probably be able to use more later on.

Send me 6 each of as many different of these bills as you have. I suppose there are 10 different if the denomination are \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 and \$10, and if there are two colors, red and green, of each. However send 6 each of as many as you have in Fine condition.

I am keeping out 4 of the sample bills which you sent as follows, \$1, \$2, and \$5 in green, and a \$3 in red. You may only send 5 each of these and charge 6 on the bill.

I am a member of all of the leading philatelic societies; S.P.A. -5240; A.P.S. -11307; J.P.S. -8576; New York Collectors Club -828; and I have my application in for the A.N.A., of which I suppose you are a member?

In regard to coins, I just sold a small collection of U.S. coins a few days ago. I have a few colonial coins now (or I think some of them are called tokens). One of them is a Conn. copper coin and another is the U.S. "Bar" coin, etc. If you are interested in any of these tokens I will be pleased to send them for you to look over.

Sincerely yours,
Benjamin B. Dubose,

Ed. Note: Benjamin B. Dubose was to continue his numismatic activity for many decades thereafter. While he was not one of America's most prominent dealers over the years, he did a generous amount of business. Correspondence indicates that Walter P. Nichols acquired a large remainder lot of obsolete notes from the Sanford (Maine) Bank. Many letters during this period reflect efforts to sell them in groups and quantities.

* * *



Norman Shultz

NUMISMATIST

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

1/2/31

Dear Mr. Nichols:-

Your favor just at hand & I will be
pleased to have your bids on any coming sales.
Will try & treat you right.

The Federal Res. notes I do not know just where
I might locate them but will try.
\$4.00 gold Fr. about \$125. would be the best I could
locate on one.

Thanking you & with best wishes for a very happy
New Year ,

Yours very truly,

N Shultz

Norman Shultz was already a long-established dealer when he wrote this letter to Walter Nichols on January 1, 1931. His coin dealership was to span many later decades as well. He corresponded with Walter Nichols on numerous occasions and supplied various items to him.

CRYSTAL CLEAR POCKETS
FOR PRESERVING
PAPER MONEY

PAPER MONEY FOR COLLECTORS
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
AND LIBRARIES

D. C. Wismer

NUMISMATIST

DEALER IN PAPER MONEY

ISSUED IN THE UNITED STATES

MEMBER
AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION

HATFIELD. PA.

August 14, 1931.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson St.,
Melrose, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter
of August 6th, all of which has been carefully noted.

I now have around fifty of Sanford Bank
notes, Maine- in stock. Twenty Five cents each is too
high a price for a quantity of nine hundred of these notes.
I would not consider paying it. Collectors do not want
duplicate notes, so that the notes would have to be kept
for years. Considering that some of the notes are uncirculat-
ed and others circulated, but in good condition, I herewith
submit an offer of \$45.00 for the Lot of about nine hundred
of the Sanford Bank Notes of different denominations, for
your consideration.

I pay highest prices for old Paper Money,
and believe that the above offer is reasonable everything
considered.

Very truly yours,



DCW-CSW.

Walter Nichols had available hundreds of obsolete paper notes from the Sanford (Maine) Bank and offered them to various dealers. This 1931 letter, from noted currency expert D.C. Wismer, is representative of various replies to these solicitations.

D.C. WISMER
Hatfield, Pa.

July 29, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your valued letter of July 27th received and noted.

The Maine List appeared in November, December 1924, January, February, March, May and June, 1925 issues of "The Numismatist". The Mousam River Bank and the Sanford Bank were listed, together with notes.

Please advise the number of Sanford Bank Notes you have, together with price, and if price is satisfactory, I will purchase all of them.

Waiting word from you.

Very truly yours,
D.C. Wismer

Ed. Note: D.C. Wismer was the most prominent research authority in the field of obsolete and broken bank notes during the 1930s. Lists of various bank notes in order by states were serialized in *The Numismatist* over a long period of years.

* * *

D.C. WISMER
Hatfield, Pa.

August 14, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of August 6th, all of which has been carefully noted.

I now have around fifty of Sanford Bank Notes, Maine in stock. Twenty-five cents each is too high a price for a quantity of nine hundred of these notes. I would not consider paying it. Collectors do not want duplicate notes, so that the notes would have to be kept for years. Considering that some of the notes are Uncirculated and others circulated, but in good condition, I herewith submit an offer of \$45.00 for the lot of about nine hundred of the Sanford Bank Notes of different denominations, for your consideration.

I pay highest prices for old paper money, and believe that the above offer is reasonable everything considered.

Very truly yours
D.C. Wismer

* * *

E.H.R. GREEN
South Dartmouth
Massachusetts

October 5, 1931

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of yours of October 3rd and wish to say that my collection of United States coins is very nearly complete and for the past two years I have only been collecting charter numbers of the National Bank bills large and small.

I would only be interested in coins of very great rarity such as one-half Eagles of 1822, P Mint and 1870 three dollar pieces, 5 Mint and I am in no way interested in duplicates as I have sold my duplicates at various times in order to be relieved of the weight of them.

Very truly yours,
E.H.R. Green

Ed. Note: Col. E.H.R. Green was one of the most colorful collectors the American numismatic scene has ever encountered. The son of eccentric Wall Street financier Hetty Green, Col. E.H.R. Green at one time owned all five of the five known 1913 Liberty head nickels, emulated Virgil Brand in that if one rarity was nice to own a dozen were even nicer, and in general cornered many different scarce and rare varieties. His estate was disposed of in the early 1940s.

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of Treasurer of the United States
October 6, 1931

Sir:

In reply to your letter dated October 3, you are advised that of the coins listed therein only the following are available:

Denver coinage:
Standard silver dollars - 1926 and 1927
Halves - 1929
Quarters - 1928 and 1929
Dimes - 1928 and 1929
Nickels - 1929
Cents - 1929 and 1930

Philadelphia coinage:
Standard silver dollars - 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928
Quarters - 1929 and 1930
Dimes - 1929 and 1930
Nickels - 1929 and 1930
Cents - 1929 and 1930

San Francisco coinage:
Standard silver dollars - *1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928
Halves - 1929
Quarters - 1928, 1929, and 1930
Dimes - 1929 and 1930
Nickels - 1929 and 1930
Cents - 1929 and 1930

*1921 dollars - Morgan type only

Specimens thereof can be furnished you for your collection, and your application therefore should be forwarded direct to the Treasurer of the United States, accompanied by a remittance for the face value of the coins and an amount sufficient to cover the mail charges (by first-class mail, either registered or unregistered at your risk, as you request) on the shipments from the Denver and San Francisco Mints and on the shipment of Philadelphia coins from this office...

Respectfully
W.O. Woods
Treasurer

* * *

THE BEISTLE COMPANY
Shippensburg, Pa.
Oct. 12, 1931

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Oct. 9th received, but inasmuch as we have turned over the distribution of Unique Coin Holders to the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. of 1 W. 47th St., New York City, we are communicating your interest to them, and they will undoubtedly furnish you with all of the information, which you desire regarding these holders.

Yours truly,
THE BEISTLE COMPANY
Sales Manager

* * *

E. H. R. GREEN
SOUTH DARTMOUTH
MASSACHUSETTS

October 5, 1931

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson St.,
Melrose, Mass.

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of yours of October 3rd and wish to say that my collection of United States coins is very nearly complete and for the past two years I have only been collecting charter numbers of the National Bank bills large and small.

I would only be interested in coins of very great rarity such as one-half Eagles of 1828, P Mint and 1870 three dollar pieces, S mint and I am in no way interested in duplicates as I have sold my duplicates at various times in order to be relieved of the weight of them.

Very truly yours,



Colonel Edward H.R. Green, son of eccentric Wall Street millionairess Hetty Green, was a hoarder extraordinaire and accumulated at one time one of the greatest quantities of United States coins and currency items ever gathered together. Although this 1931 letter mentioned that he had sold unneeded pieces, a decade later when his estate was dispersed there were countless duplicates, including notable specimens of prime rarities. Green engaged in many hobbies and at one time operated a railroad for his private enjoyment.

B. G. JOHNSON, PROPRIETOR

CABLE ADDRESS "Monetal"
ESTABLISHED 1897.

PREMIUM COIN LIST 100



Dealers in
COINS, STAMPS,
PAPER MONEY,
AUTOGRAPHS

St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.

408 OLIVE STREET

ST. LOUIS, MO.



Dealers in
INDIAN RELICS,
OLD FIREARMS,
CURIOS, ETC.

11/2/31.

Mr. Walter F. Nichols,
212 N. Emerson St.,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

We duly received your telegram and also your letter of Oct. 30th. Mr. Johnson has been kept very busy with a European dealer who was visiting him, and we were unable to do anything about this Panama-Pacific set until today. We appreciate your giving a bank reference, as the amount of trouble we have been having lately under present condition of things in general, is almost unbelievable, even with some customers who have been doing business with us for twenty years or more. In order to avoid any delay of writing the bank which you gave as reference, we are sending the set on to the bank direct, and they will deliver it to you on payment of the \$390.00 after you inspect it. It is a beautiful set in the original case. In the future we can of course, send goods on to you direct. We hope this will be satisfactory.

At this moment we are not buying a great deal in the coin line, as we have the largest stock we ever had, and business is very dull indeed. As soon as it picks up, we shall be pleased to make an arrangement with you about your duplicates. We have a 1799 cent in stock, which is very good for date, but of course far from a remarkable specimen, at our price of \$25.00. It shows the two sides very well.

Very truly yours,

St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.

Burdette G. Johnson operated the St. Louis Stamp and Coin Company, a leading dealership during the early part of the present century. Nearly all of the many letters received by Walter P. Nichols were written by a secretary who usually explained that Mr. Johnson was traveling, was visiting bank vaults, or was otherwise away from the office. The present letter offers a Panama-Pacific commemorative coin set and a 1799 large cent.

HENRY CHAPMAN
333 South Sixteenth St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

October 14, 1931

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of 12th. It would be a very arduous job to pick out all the coins you ask for. I would much prefer to send them to you on approval for selection. If you will send me bank reference establishing your credit with me I will be glad to send you what I have of those you ask for. I can probably send you a thousand dollars worth. Would you be interested in this amount?

I find this a very satisfactory way to do business as you are enabled to see what you are getting before you purchase it. We have the rare half cents in the 40s costing from \$50 to \$75 each. Would you be interested in them?

Yours very truly,
Henry Chapman

* * *

Charles C. Rood
2164 McClellan Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

October 27, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have received the additional package of unpriced auction catalogs and am rather surprised that you would send these after my lengthy discourse and aversion to unpriced auction sales, particularly sales of no particular prominence and without plates. As I have previously stated "They are next to worthless, are not salable until priced, and there is not one dealer in the country that will take them even as auction material."

Priced catalogs of prominent collections such as Jenks, John G. Mills, Parmelee, and several others are a different matter, although even these are none too good and move slow—the standard books and periodicals being best.

I couldn't think of paying \$8.00 for this lot and will pay return express out of my own pocket and return them if you wish, or, as you evidently want to relieve yourself of all such material, and they are at least clean and I may move a few of them sometime in trade, I'll make my check for an extra \$5.00, making \$30.00 in all and forget about them, but would just as soon return them rather than have you fancy I was trying to use [clever] tactics in my deals.

Acknowledgment of return of the Scott's 1893 is included and please list your particular specialties that I may submit lists of material and suggestions for future items.

Respectfully yours,
Charles C. Rood

* * *

ELMER S. SEARS
Swansea, Mass.

Oct. 28, 1931

Dear Sir:

Agreeable to your request, I quote you the following prices:

Pan-Pacific Set, \$550.00; \$20.00 Saint-Gaudens, wire edge, \$26.50.

Very truly yours,
E.S. Sears

* * *

ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO.

408 Olive Street
St. Louis, Mo.

October 31, 1931

Dear Sir:

Your wire duly received, and we will get the Panama-Pacific set off to you early next week. Mr. Schulman of Amsterdam has been here for the last two days, and Mr. Johnson has been entertaining him and unable to get to his safety deposit box.

Trusting this will not inconvenience you, we are,

Very truly yours,
St. Louis Stamp & Co.

* * *

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.

1 West 47th St.
New York, N.Y.

November 2, 1931

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of October 26th, we wish to state that we cannot make any special holders of the size that you want, namely $8\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$.

However, in the very near future we expect to have a series of small cards which will measure $7\frac{1}{4} \times 4\text{--}7\frac{7}{8}$ and these small pages will be made for the various sizes of the United States coins and we will also have a series of cards of the same size suitable for the Proof sets of the various dates that were issued.

As soon as we have any definite information as to the number of pages needed for the amount of various coins that you list, we will let you know.

We will also have a special holder for this new size page and they will not be perforated like the large size pages.

We also wish to acknowledge receipt of the two coin pages that you returned.

Yours very truly,
Scott Stamp & Coin Co.
Coin Department
Leonard Kustener

* * *

ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO.

408 Olive Street
St. Louis, Mo.

November 2, 1931

Dear Sir:

We duly received your telegram and also your letter of Oct. 30th. Mr. Johnson has been kept very busy with a European dealer who was visiting him, and we were unable to do anything about this Panama-Pacific set until today. We appreciate your giving a bank reference, as the amount of trouble we have been having lately under present condition of things in general, is almost unbelievable, even with some customers who have been doing business with us for twenty years or more. In order to avoid any delay of writing the bank which you gave as reference, we are sending the set on to the bank direct, and they will deliver it to you on payment of the \$390.00 after you inspect it. It is a beautiful set in the original case. In the future we can of course, send goods on to you direct. We hope this will be satisfactory.

At this moment we are not buying a great deal in the coin line, as we have the largest stock we ever had, and business is very dull indeed. As soon as it picks up, we shall be pleased to make an arrangement with you about your duplicates. We have a 1799 cent in stock, which is very good for date, but of course far from a remarkable specimen, at our price of \$25.00. It shows the two nines very well.

Very truly yours,
St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.

* * *

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.

1 West 47th Street
New York, N.Y.
November 6, 1931

Dear Sir:

In regard to the small size coin holders that you wished information on, we wish to state that for the amount of coins that you have it would require about 200 pages and if you are interested in the purchase of the amount we can now supply these pages at 50c each. We can also figure out the exact amount that would be required.

When you wrote us previously it was impossible for me to give you any more information about the pages as I did not know myself just exactly what type of small page Mr. Raymond intended to issue.

As Mr. Luhrs of the Beistle Company has already explained it would be impractical to make the size page that you requested.

Hoping to be of service to you, we are,

Yours very truly,
Scott Stamp & Coin. Co.
Coin Department
Leonard Kusterer

* * *

ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO.

408 Olive Street
St. Louis, Mo.
November 7, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your favor of Nov. 4th to hand, and no doubt by this time you have received the Panama-Pacific coins, which is a beautiful set. We wish to state that we have already received a letter from the bank, which is highly flattering to you, and from now on, shall be pleased to send you anything you wish on approval direct. We appreciate the fair spirit in which you have permitted this inquiry to be made of the bank. A year or so ago we were much more lenient in extending credit, with the result that we have had one or two disastrous experiences. Some customers who were perfectly good even having turned bad, the financial position of so many people having been altered radically during the last two years.

Mr. Johnson regrets he will not be in New York during the week of Nov. 16th, although he hopes to get to both New York and Boston before very long. The length of illness of his father, which ended in the death of his father two weeks ago, has practically kept him in St. Louis for more than a year.

Very truly yours,
St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.

* * *

ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO.

408 Olive Street
St. Louis, Mo.
November 9, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We are in receipt today of draft for \$389.00 covering the Panama-Pacific set, and are glad that you found it satisfactory, as we were sure you would. As we stated before, we shall be pleased to send you anything you may wish on approval direct from now on, and awaiting your further favors, we are,

Very truly yours,
St. Louis Stamp & Coin. Co.

* * *

CHARLES C. ROOD

2164 McClellan Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

November 14, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In reply to your letter of the 7th, I am sorry that my failure to remit as promptly as promised has inconvenienced you and on account of an unavoidable illness that I am not yet recovered from I am going to ask you to favor me with just a little more time in which to attend to it.

My income from my literature is the only income I have and it is very moderate indeed—with more "buys" than sales; I try my best to keep my obligations paid up to date and just about manage to do so under present circumstances, but an expensive sick spell interrupts all my plans, reduces what little cash I have and makes it bad for me in more ways than one. I hope that you will not be out of patience if it takes a few days more before I can send you the money.

In return for this extension I shall be glad to allow you an additional \$5.00 in merchandise as soon as I have anything you can use. I have no Scott catalogs at present which you do not already possess, except a small catalog of minor coins recently issued by the Scott Company and which I am sending gratis. Did you know that this company has resumed dealing in coins?

There are quite a few Scott catalogs besides the ones you have and I shall send you a list of all that I can classify as soon as I feel equal to looking through my lists and catalogs of books.

Please let me know your particular interests in coins and coin literature that I may better know what to offer in addition to Scott catalogs.

Have handled a good many different editions of Scotts' including the 1913 copper and nickel and will likely be having some of them before long; I might add that there are many fine books on coins besides Scotts' which cover the coin, medal, and paper money subject pretty well.

In a previous letter I mentioned that the Robert E. French catalog you sent did not contain price list and was wondering if this had been mislaid and overlooked by you in making the shipment. I would appreciate this if you run across it, and if not no harm done.

I have just learned that the Waldo Newcomer Collection of U.S. coins is to be sold at auction (by Mehl) and this should create something of a sensation as the collection lacks but one item of being complete, contains many unique rarities and is valued at \$250,000. Catalogs should be worth owning.

Again hoping that you are agreeable to my request for a little more patience, and assuring you that you will not regret it, I am,

Respectfully yours,
Charles C. Rood

* * *

CHARLES C. ROOD

2164 McClellan Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

November 24, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your considerate letter, just this minute received.

I am afraid that I will not be able to send the money on December 1st, but will do the very best I can and if not able to send it then I shall certainly send it as soon after that date as possible.

Hope you received the Scotts' I mailed you, which did not amount to much, the significance being "that Scotts have entered the coin field again."

I may run across the price-list of the French collection amongst the other catalogs, but should you ever find it please send it.

Note that you specialize on the U.S. coins (the best of them all) and will send you a list of anything that I have—or acquire—shortly. Don't suppose that you are interested in U.S. medals or paper money; have several books on both, and right now am compiling a list of Scott publications for you.

Sincerely yours,
Charles C. Rood.

CHARLES C. ROOD
2164 McClellan Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

November 25, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The Scott item that I have sent you under separate cover is gratis; it is quite a scarce item and belongs in the Scott group of literature—also the first one that I have handled so far.

There were three editions of the Paper Money catalog issued prior to the fourth (1894) and last edition. Dates, etc., will be supplied as soon as I have finished compiling the list, and reference to my first catalog will give you numbers and titles of several other Scott catalogs.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles C. Rood

* * *

F.C.C. BOYD
237 East 20th Street
New York, N.Y.

November 25, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I, too, enjoyed your visit last Thursday evening and will be glad to hear from you on your next visit to New York.

In regard to the list of minor Proof sets, dollars and quarter eagles, I can offer you \$87.62 for this lot. If this meets with your approval, ship the coins on and check will go forward by return mail.

The fractional currency shield has not been shipped as yet, but expect to get it off Friday by express.

Yours very truly,
F.C.C. Boyd

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.

November 27, 1931

Sir:

Replying to your letter of November 24 relative to securing fractional currency in sheets or original packages, you are informed that no Uncirculated pieces of this currency are now available, other than a few of the 50 cent pieces. At times some of the other denominations that are received for redemption are fit for distribution and are held for that purpose for such as want them at face value in amounts not to exceed \$2.00 in the aggregate.

Chief of Redemption Division

* * *

SANFORD TRUST COMPANY
Sanford, Maine

November 27, 1931

Dear Walter:

We occasionally receive at our windows the old style United States currency and among these there are some of the Federal Reserve notes about which you write in your letter of the 25th. For instance, in the accumulation now on hand, waiting to be sent back to the Reserve Bank, we have a one dollar bill, issued by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Most of these bills, however, are in rather poor condition and thinking you are probably interested particularly in clean copies of such money, we would like to know, before forwarding you any of these bills, as requested, just how particular you may be about the condition.

We will gladly reserve any such money as we may take in for you and insofar as paying me for such accommodation, I do not require it but cannot help mentioning the fact that I am interested in postage stamps, par-

ticularly in the nineteenth century issues. If you have access to any old correspondence, or know of any accumulations of stamps, I would be only too glad to be remembered.

Very truly yours,
Tom

* * *

COLORADO NATIONAL BANK
Denver, Colorado

November 28, 1931

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of November 25th, we are informed by the Mint in Denver that, while they have the 1929D and 1931D pennies on hand, they cannot release them without a special order from the U.S. Treasurer.

It will, therefore, be necessary for you to have such an order from the U.S. Treasurer before such coins can be obtained.

We are returning your post office money order for \$2.75.

Yours very truly,
Assistant Cashier.

* * *

BANK OF AMERICA
San Francisco Main Office
San Francisco, CA.

December 1, 1931

Dear Sir:

We regret very much that we are unable to secure the 100 1930s and 100 1931s pennies as requested in your letter of November 25, 1931.

We are accordingly returning your money order for \$2.75.

Very truly yours,
R.F. Schacht,
Assistant Cashier

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.

December 4, 1931

Sir:

Your letter is at hand, making further inquiry concerning fractional currency. You are informed that the limit of \$2.00 on the sale of fractional currency notes was to provide an opportunity for such as desire, to get a few as specimen notes, and avoid as far as possible that which would otherwise become a privilege for currency collectors to take advantage of for commercial purposes.

The following pieces are available at present, and are set aside for you: three 50 cent pieces (one red back); one 25 cent piece (purple back); one 15 cent piece and one 10 cent piece. Upon receipt of value, \$2.00, they will be forwarded to you. Later on others may be available, although very few are coming in.

Respectfully,
Chief of Redemption Division.

Ed. Note: It will undoubtedly come as a surprise to present readers to learn fractional currency could be ordered from the Treasury Department as late as 1931!

* * *



OFFICE OF
TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
IN REPLYING QUOTE **TER:JMS**

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

November 27, 1931.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson Street,
Melrose, Mass.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of November 24 relative to securing fractional currency in sheets or original packages, you are informed that no uncirculated pieces of this currency are now available, other than a few of the 50 cent pieces. At times some of the other denominations that are received for redemption are fit for distribution and are held for that purpose for such as want them at face value in amounts not to exceed \$2.00 in the aggregate.


Chief of Redemption Division.

Present-day readers will undoubtedly be startled to know that the Treasury Department had available Uncirculated fifty-cent fractional currency notes in 1931! Had this knowledge been widespread, undoubtedly the government would have received thousands of requests. Correspondence with the Treasury Department and its various branches, a small portion of which is reprinted in the present book, has brought to light many hitherto unknown aspects of coin and paper money distribution during the 1930s.

L.D. ACKERMAN
95 Meadow St.
Naugatuck, Conn.

December 5, 1931

Dear Sir:

I note your "ad" in "The Numismatist". I am short of 1804 cents and 1811 half cents. If you have any for sale would like your quotations. Also if you have common cents and half cents by the hundred lots would be interested in these.

Have a good stock of cents and half cents and hundreds of varieties if you are interested in any particular ones. Would be glad to quote or send on approval.

Yours very truly
L.D. Ackerman, ANA-2069

P.S. You will note I used to live in Greenwood.

* * *

WALTER P. NICHOLS
212 West Emerson Street
Melrose, Mass.

Dec. 5, 1931

Mr. George J. Bauer, Pres.
210 St. Paul St.
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bauer:

I have been corresponding with Mr. Wilson regarding issuing membership certificates. My father-in-law, Mr. S.B. Emery was a member a number of years, holding certificate number 215. I have joined during this year, holding card number 3935.

I certainly thought when I joined that I would be entitled to a membership certificate, and have been writing Mr. Wilson ever since. Last week when I was in New York I talked with Mr. Wood regarding same, and he thought that they were being continued.

In a letter from Mr. Wilson, dated Nov. 25th, he states that he is unable to comply with my request, because he is not authorized to extend this courtesy to me, and also that I am at liberty to bring this matter up with the Board of Governors.

I certainly want a membership certificate if it is possible to get one. I want this to hang in my coin room, to show my guests that I am a member of the coin clubs and societies. If they see this on the wall they feel that you are not only collecting for fun, but are making a study of coins.

When I join the Masons etc., I not only get a membership card, but also a membership certificate and I feel that I should get one from the American Numismatic Association. Can you help me out?

Hoping to hear from you, I am

Sincerely,
Walter P. Nichols

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.

December 7, 1931

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated December 1 transmitting a postal money order in the amount of \$2.75 in favor of the Colorado National Bank, Denver, Colorado, and requesting an order for the release of one hundred new one-cent pieces of each of the coinage years 1929 and 1931 by the Denver Mint for your collection and for exchange purposes.

In reply your attention is invited to the coin policy of the Treasury, adopted in the interest of economy, which is not to furnish new coins so long as the stock of circulated are sufficient to meet the demands for trade requirements. Exceptions to such policy are made only in cases where a few pieces of new coins are desired for certain special purposes such as coin collections and corner stone layings. Inasmuch as the records of this

office show that you have previously been furnished with specimens of the above-mentioned coins for your collection, your remittance is returned herewith.

For your further information you are advised that the amount of 1929 cents now held by the Denver Mint is less than \$3.00.

Respectfully,
Assistant Treasurer

* * *

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF CLEVELAND

December 8, 1931

Dear Sir:

We have your inquiry of the 5th regarding the availability of Federal Reserve Bank notes in the denominations of \$1, \$2, and \$5. When these notes were withdrawn from circulation and retired, we set aside a few for the benefit of collectors and for historical exhibits and if you will send us a remittance we will be pleased to send you the specimens you desire.

The writer completed a personal collection of these notes about a year ago and found that the small denominations of some of the reserve banks were quite difficult to obtain. We have, however, a number of duplicates in some of these issues and if you will provide a list of the banks of issue and the denominations desired, we will check the list and give you notice of what other notes we can provide.

Very truly yours,
Assistant Cashier

* * *

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF KANSAS CITY

December 9, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In response to your letter of December 5th regarding the possibility of obtaining for your collection some Federal Reserve Bank notes issued by this bank in 1918 in denominations of one, two and five dollars.

You are informed that we are able to supply you with these notes, and upon receipt of your remittance we will be glad to forward them to you.

Yours very truly
M.W.E. Park
Assistant Cashier

* * *

C.F. CLARKE & CO.
Le Roy, N.Y.

December 10, 1931

Mr. Nichols-

Dear Sir:

We have yours of the 8th.

We are interested in ALL kinds of coins and bills. As we have over 2,000 coin customers on our buying list, it takes quite a bunch of coins to supply them. Have been in this business for over 26 years.

If you have any items that you can sell at a price so we can re-sell, then we have no doubt but what we can do business.

At this time we are interested in a few minor Proof sets. What can you offer? Also can use a few Liberty seated dollars, Fine to Proof. Also some early half cents.

Any times you care to send on approval will have our prompt attention.
C.F. Clarke & Co.

As we are DEALERS, make your price as low as you can.

We buy from nearly all dealers, and from hundreds that are not dealers.

* * *

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF CLEVELAND

December 11, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We are in receipt of your letter of the 9th and remittance of \$8 and we are pleased to mail you a like amount in specimen \$1, \$2 and \$5 Federal Reserve Bank notes issued by this bank in 1918. These notes are no longer issued and they are rarely seen in ordinary circulation; therefore, good specimens will become increasingly desirable.

At this writing I have not had time to review our accumulation of old series currency but believe we still have some items of interest to you and if you care to send me a remittance of \$10 or \$15 some time in the future, I am sure I could pick out some of the missing Federal Reserve districts as well as some small denominations in United States notes, silver certificates, and Treasury notes. If we should send you anything that is not desired it is, of course, readily convertible into current funds at your local bank.

Since you state that you are just starting your paper currency collection, it might be well for a time to concentrate on the \$1 and \$2 bills that stretches one's resources a little further and you have plenty of opportunity for specialization in signature varieties in these early issues.

We can use either your personal check or your bank draft for any remittance you care to send to us though under our bank rules we will have to allow sufficient time for the collection of funds before a return shipment can be made. Let us know if we can be of further service.

Very truly yours,
Assistant Cashier

* * *

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF ST. LOUIS

December 11, 1931

Dear Sir:

If we are favored with exchange available in St. Louis amounting to \$8.19 we will forward the old size Federal Reserve Bank notes as indicated in previous correspondence

Yours very truly,
A.H. Hall
Controller

* * *

C. F. CLARKE & CO.
Le Roy, N.Y.

Dec 12, 1931

Gentlemen:

I thank you for your letter of Dec 10th and quote you on the following pieces.

Silver Dollars
1842 Fine \$1.75
1843 Fine 1.75
1844 Fine 2.25
1846 Fine 1.75
1850 Fine 4.50
1853 Fine 2.25
1859 Proof 3.25
1863 Proof 3.00
1863 Fine 2.25
1864 Fine 2.25
1867 Proof 2.50
1868 Proof 2.50
1869 Proof 2.50
1870 Fine 2.00
1871 Fine 2.00
1872 Fine 2.00

Minor Proof Sets

1880 1-3-5 \$1.20
1881 1-3-5 1.65
1882 1-3-5 1.40
1883 1-3-5-5 1.50
1884 1-3-5 1.25
1885 1-3-5 1.25
1886 1-3-5 1.25
1887 1-3-5 1.75
1888 1-3-5 1.25
1889 1-3-5 1.50
1890 1-5 .75
1891 1-5 .75
1892 1-5 1.00
1893 1-5 .75
1901 1-5 .50
1902 1-5 .50
1903 1-5 .50
1904 1-5 .50
1905 1-5 .50
1906 1-5 .50
1907 1-5 .50
1908 1-5 .75
1909 1-5 1.50
1910 1-5 1.50
1911 1-5 1.50
1912 1-5 1.50
1913 1-5 1.50
1914 1-5 1.50

I have about two hundred Proofs in all denominations and if you would let me know what you are interested in I will be very glad to sell them. If these prices do not meet with your approval, make me an offer, and if I think it is reasonable I will accept it. I am selling all of my duplicate and you might just as well have them as the next person.

Sincerely,

C.F. Clarke & Co.

* * *

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

210 St. Paul Street
Rochester, N.Y.

December 14, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Received your favor asking about an engraved certificate of membership in the A.N.A. regret to say that the only certificates issued at present are those for life membership.

Members who can do so should take out life membership, it is profitable in the long run although entailing an investment at the start.

You can really understand that certificates would have to be issued all members in case we extended this to any individual member.

I trust we can at some near future time enroll you as a life member and know you will feel proud to be among the select number who have taken out this permanent membership.

Thanking you for your interest in the A.N.A.

Sincerely,

George Bauer, Pres. A.N.A.

* * *

M.H. BOLENDER
Orangeville, Illinois
Dec. 16, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I just added by luck purchase to my stock a complete set of Panama Pacific coins. I believe that you wrote me sometime ago that you were in the market for a set. This set is in perfect condition, the five coins complete (\$50 round, \$50 octagonal, \$2.50, gold dollar, and silver half dollar). It is mounted on a plush display card, under glass, with full description of each coin printed in gold on purple card. All in antique bronze frame, with easel for setting on desk or hanging on wall. Size over all, 8 by 10 inches. Only a few sets were issued in this form, the finest possible. Very rare and desirable set, that has been valued up to \$1,000 and has an auction record of a year ago of \$600. The last set that I sold, a few months ago, at auction brought \$490.00 and was not in a fine display frame like his. Coins are in perfect condition, and can easily be removed and replaced in a moment. I will sell this set to you, if taken at once, for \$460 cash net. No commission for you to pay. This is a splendid chance for acquiring something genuinely fine, and for a good investment. I doubt if they will ever be lower.

Very truly yours,
A.H. Bolender

* * *

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF MINNEAPOLIS

December 17, 1931

Dear Sir:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 12 in which you enclosed \$8.00 in currency and requested us to forward to you three old coins bank notes issued by us.

We are enclosing a \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$5.00 bank notes issued by us. These are the best specimens we have on hand and we trust that they will be suitable for your collection.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this currency on the copy enclosed.

Yours very truly,
J.F. Homstrom
Assistant Cashier

* * *

WAYNE RAYMOND
15 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y.

December 19, 1931

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your favor of the 16th just received.

You will be interested to know that since we took your order for coins it has been necessary to increase the retail price to 60c. So you will see that you are getting a discount of about 30%. All the holders have been shipped to you and I hope you find them satisfactory. I have not ordered any more of the books for bills as yet, the cost is rather too high and we are working on another plan.

Yours very truly,
Wayne Raymond

* * *

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF SAN FRANCISCO

December 21, 1931

Dear Sir:

We acknowledge your letter of December 5, 1931, requesting us to furnish you with bank notes of this bank, issue of 1918, in \$1, \$2, and \$5 denominations.

The Treasury began the retirement of the Federal Reserve Bank notes of this bank about April, 1921, by the issuance in lieu thereof of silver certificates. We have, therefore, not issued any new bank notes for a considerable period of time. We receive in deposits a small number of such notes, but as they have been circulated for some time they would be undesirable for your purpose.

In view of the above, we regret that we are unable to furnish you with the bank notes you desire.

Yours very truly,
Assistant Cashier

* * *

Correspondence from 1932

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Office of Treasurer of the United States

January 2, 1932

Honorable David I. Walsh
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

I have received by reference from the Acting Director of the Mint your letter to the Director dated December 30 in connection with Uncirculated one-cent pieces desired by Mr. Walter P. Nichols, 212 West Emerson Street, Melrose, Massachusetts.

In reply please be advised that it is the policy of the Treasury not to furnish new (Uncirculated) coins so long as the stocks of circulated are sufficient to meet the demands for trade requirements. This policy was adopted in the interest of economy in order to avoid unnecessary coinage costs in the case of subsidiary silver and minor coins, and transportation and insurance costs on return shipments of all classes of coins to the mints from the Federal Reserve banks and branches of surplus stocks which would result if new coins were distributed when there are available sufficient supplies of circulated coins.

Exceptions to such policy are made in cases where a few pieces of new coins are desired for special purposes such as coin collections and corner stones; but no Uncirculated coins are furnished for exchange purposes, advertising use, or to coin dealers for sale to the public. It is, of course, difficult for each applicant for new coins to realize how one request for a relatively small amount can have any appreciable effect on the situation; but if the amounts asked for were supplied to all applicants, the aggregate would be considerable.

Mr. Nichols has been supplied with several specimens of all of the available Denver and San Francisco cents for his coin collection. It appears that the number furnished for that purpose is sufficient and that the additional cents requested in his letter to you are for exchange purposes only. In this connection attention is invited to the fact that the "Numismatist" for December 1931 shows Mr. Nichols to be a dealer in coins.

As previously indicated it is the uniform practice of the Department not to furnish any Uncirculated coins for exchange purposes or for sale to the public, and I assume you would not want an exception made in this case only.

Very Truly yours,
Assistant Treasurer

Ed. Note: The preceding letter was sent to Senator David I. Walsh who, presumably, was making a request on the behalf of Mr. Nichols.

* * *

Your Collection or Dup-
licates Sold Promptly
at Auction Sale

Member of American
Numismatic Association and
Chicago Coin Club

M. H. BOLENDER

NUMISMATIST

Dealer in Old Coins and Paper Money

Orangeville, Illinois

Dec. 16, 1931,

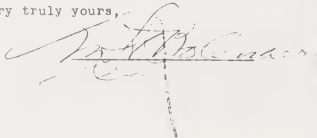
Mr. Walter F. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson Street,
Melrose, Mass.,

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I just added by luck purchase to my stock a complete set of Panama Pacific coins. I believe that you wrote me sometime ago that you were in the market for a set. This set is in perfect condition, the five coins complete (\$50 round, \$50 octagonal, \$2.50 gold dollar, and silver half-dollar). It is mounted on a plush display card, under glass, with full description of each coin printed in gold, on purple card. All in antique bronze frame, with easel for setting on desk, or hanging on wall. Size over all, 8 by 10 inches. Only a few sets were issued in this form, the finest possible. Very rare and desirable set, that has been valued up to \$1000, and has an auction record of a year ago of \$600. The last set that I sold, a few months ago, at auction brought \$490.00 and was not in a fine display frame like this. Coins are in perfect condition, and can easily be removed and replaced in a moment. I will sell this set to you, if taken at once, for \$460, cash net. No commission for you to pay. This is a splendid chance for acquiring something genuinely fine, and for a good investment. I doubt if they will ever be lower.

Very truly yours,

MHB:S



Over the years Walter F. Nichols purchased several Panama-Pacific sets. In the above letter, M.H. Bolender, a prominent dealer who remained active through the early 1960s, offers a set for just \$460. By 1984 such a set was valued at more than \$75,000!

SCOTT STAMP AND COIN CO.

1 West 47th Street
New York

January 7th, 1932

Dear Sir:

Referring to your communication of December 19th and supplementing our reply of January 5th, we have conferred with Mr. Raymond regarding the coin album pages.

When these pages were originally made, it was found that the majority desired a space whereby the coins would be loose in it and that it would not fit snug.

In regard to the following pages you wish to return, will you kindly send them to us at 1 West 47th Street and in the meantime, we will order the pages that you desire in exchange.

23-317 for 23-316
9-327 for 9-325
1-319 for 1-318

In regard to price changes, we are not the manufacturers and consequently, when there is an advance to us, naturally we have to pass it on.

At the same time you must realize that this is a patented article on which there is a limited sale which, of course, accounts for a portion of the high price.

Yours very truly,
A.C. Zimmermann

* * *

JAMES G. MACALLISTER

3400 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA

Jan. 19, 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Yours received. I had heard about Hesslein from several sources and was greatly surprised. Usually disagreeable people are honest. I saw him in N.Y. a couple of weeks ago and bought quite a little stuff from him, and he showed no indication at that time of anything unusual.

As to my trip up to Boston, I hardly think it will be before March or April. I have recently undertaken to catalog several sales for a N.Y. firm of stamp auctioneers, and this together with my regular business will take up most of my time for the next couple of months.

Will send you the balance of the coins that are on the list sent me probably the beginning of next week, as I will be in N.Y. all the balance of this week, and will get them from Scott. They have evidently overlooked my order as I have not received them.

Yours very truly,
James G. Macallister

P.S. Will let you know in plenty of time of any trip that I may make up to your town.

Ed. Note: James G. Macallister conducted a very active business in Philadelphia during the period of the correspondence. United States copper coins were a specialty. The reference in the above letter is to William Hesslein, a Boston dealer of checkered reputation, who apparently was suffering financial reverses. The same subject is continued in the following letter.

* * *

JAMES G. MACALLISTER

3400 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA

Jan. 28, 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The reason Scott had not sent me the coins I lacked to fill your order was because they did not have them. I did pick up a couple of the cents however from another source, and enclose them herewith. They are not of sufficient value to make out a bill so hope you will accept them as a small token of good-fellowship.

Have heard a lot of the Hesslein fiasco, and it now seems that he did the thing with malice aforethought as I understand he had borrowed from several sources a considerable sum of money. I hope they find him and give him life. It is a black-eye to our business that a man after 35 years in it is in such poor circumstances that he would contemplate such a thing.

Will be more anxious than ever to get to Boston occasionally and will try to make the trip as soon as I conveniently can, and will find out long enough in advance if the date is agreeable to you.

You said something about Boston Federal Reserve Notes, I think I could use them if they are in crisp condition and the price is not too high. You might let me know how many you can get and the approximate price for the lot.

Yours very truly,
James G. Macallister

* * *

ED. M. LEE

Loans and Investments
623 Security Building
Glendale, California

February 3, 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:

While moving some things around in the office yesterday, I ran across your letter of December 19th, 1931, answering an inquiry about California gold, and noted that it had not been answered. Am sorry that this answer has been delayed so long.

We have not been able to get hold of any quantities of 1930 or 1931 "S" mint pennies as yet, but if we do will let you know. In regard to the Federal Reserve Notes you inquired about, we do not have these on hand but may be able to find them for you. If so, will let you know later.

Appreciated your inquiry and if we can be of any help to you at any time, will be glad to cooperate with you. Keep a watch for California gold. Will be glad to hear from you at any time.

Sincerely yours,
Kenneth W. Lee

Ed. Note: Kenneth Lee was an active dealer for several decades after the date of the above letter. Small denomination California gold was a specialty, and in later years he wrote what was to become the standard reference work on the subject. In 1932 he was associated with Edward M. Lee, his father.

* * *

Rye N.H.

Feb. 12, 1932

Dear Sir:

Please send me the following half dollars—the rest I will consider later—would rather pay a little more and have better coins.

Half dollar 1883 Proof 1.00
Half dollar 1887 Fine .85
Half dollar 1890 Fine .85
Half dollar 1815 2.00

Will take a chance on it. Find enclosed check 4.70...

Yours truly,
John E. Anthes

* * *

CHARLES E. HATFIELD, President
HUGH M. CLARK, Treasurer
JOHN N. LUFF, Expert

ARTHUR C. ZIMMERMANN
Manager Publication Dept.

BRANCH STORE
178 FULTON ST. N.Y.
Cash Address
BOWLING
NEW YORK

PUBLISHERS OF
INTERNATIONAL STAMP ALBUMS
INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR STAMP ALBUMS
MODERN STAMP ALBUMS
JERSEY STAMP ALBUMS
HISTORY OF U.S. STAMPS
POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE
RE PLUS ULTRA STAMP ALBUMS
RE PLUS ULTRA STAMP BOOKS



POSTAGE STAMP & ALBUMS

1 WEST 47th STREET,

TELEPHONE
BRYANT 1277

NEW YORK, N.Y.

January 7th, 1932

Mr. Walter P. Nichols
212 W. Emerson Street
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your communication of December 19th and supplementing our reply of January 5th, we have conferred with Mr. Raymond regarding the Coin Album pages.

When these pages were originally made, it was found that the capacity desired a space whereby the coins could be loose in it and that it would not fit snug.

In regard to the following pages you wish to return, will you kindly send them to us at 1 West 47th Street and in the meantime, we will order the pages that you desire in exchange.

— 23-317 for 23-316
— 9-317 for 9-325
— 1-319 for 1-318

In regard to price changes, we are not the manufacturers and consequently, when there is an advance to us, naturally we have to pass it on.

At the same time you must realize that this is a patented article on which there is a limited sale which, of course, accounts for a portion of the high price.

Yours very truly,

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.

A. C. Zimmermann
A. C. ZIMMERMANN

TO INSURE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING PUBLICATIONS AND STAMPS WE WOULD SUGGEST USING
SEPARATE SHEETS FOR THE TWO SUBJECTS

The Scott Stamp and Coin Company was in and out of the coin business on several occasions from the 19th century onward. In 1932 they were quite active and handled many important properties, some with the assistance of Wayne Raymond, who worked with them for a period of time. In the above letter A.C. Zimmermann, the manager of the Publication Department, discusses the "National" coin album pages, a popular way of storing and displaying collections.

JAMES G. MACALLISTER

3400 N. FIFTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. Jan. 19, 1932.

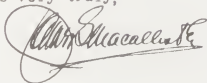
Dear Mr. Nichols, -

Yours received. I had heard about Hesslein from several sources and was greatly surprised. Usually disagreeable people are honest. I saw him in N. Y. a couple of weeks ago and bought quite a little stuff from him, and he showed no indication at that time of anything unusual.

As to my trip up to Boston, I hardly think it will be before March or April. I have recently undertaken to catalog several sales for a N. Y. firm of Stamp auctioneers, and this together with my regular business will take up most of my time for the next couple of months.

Will send you the balance of the coins that are on the list sent me probably the beginning of next week, as I will be in N. Y. all the balance of this week, and will get them from Scott. They have evidently overlooked my order as I have not received them.

Yours very truly,



Will let you know in plenty of time of any trip that I may make up to your town.



THE ABOVE GOODS ARE CONSIGNED ON APPROVAL AND THE TITLE IN THE
CONSIGNOR DOES NOT PASS UNTIL THEY ARE PAID FOR

James G. Macallister in this 1932 letter talks about the scandal involving William Hesslein, a Boston dealer who apparently absconded with money owed to many different people, including some of his dealer friends. Earlier, Hesslein conducted auction sales. Macallister was a prominent Philadelphia dealer for many years and specialized in early American copper coins, among other issues.

JOHN E. MORSE
Dealer and Collector
12 Middle Street
Hadley, Massachusetts
February the 22nd, 1932
Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your kind favor of the 18th at hand last Sat., as also the 2-PHOTO CARDS of U.S. Bill and old Nat'l. Bk' bill. I thank you for return of same and excuse me for sending them as I understood that you were wanting some of them.

Just had letter from one—Harry Oppenheim, 40 Court St., Boston, Mass., (Room 707) in which he writes me that the COLLECTION(?) of one William Hesselton of Boston, including the good will of the business, will be offered for sale by auction, at 10 o'clock A.M. on Feb. 29th, next.

Did you receive such a letter and do you know anything about what will be offered? If you do look the stuff over, kindly give me some idea as to what it consists of. I had the information from you I think that H. cleaned out everything of real worth.

Imagine this is how the party who loaned H. money, will try and secure some part of it.

But I did not think of the "good-will" of the business and perhaps that will pay up everything(?).

If you have a chance to let me know just what is being offered, kindly inform me if it is not asking too much of you.

I would like to take a chance on going to Boston, on the 29th, if I could sell enough good stuff, to even pay expenses.

But I would have to watch my step and not overdo and get another setback, physically.

I would take along some stuff for you to look over and perhaps you could take enough to bal. up my a/c with you.

Of course, this is all in the air as I will have to collect some money due me and have some sent in—in payment of approval items before I could even start on this trip.

Have a payment to make at Bk' on the 3rd of March. This sale will be held in H's. old office. Why don't you buy the good-will of the Biz? You could live down the reputation of its present name and build up a good numismatic business inside of a year or 2. Or at least, after good times start in.

Kindest regards and then some hopes of seeing you just a little later.

Sincerely,
John E. Morse

Ed. Note. The preceding letter from John Morse—a dealer in paper ephemera—discusses the Hesselton situation and offers a suggestion to Nichols. Extensive correspondence in the Nichols' archive from Morris reveals that the latter continually inquired about scrip notes broken bank notes and other related series.

* * *

JAMES G. MACALLISTER
3400 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, Pa
March Eighth 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am returning herewith the Boston Federal Reserve Notes. The last lot I bought of you is sufficient stock of these notes to last me some time, in fact the way they are selling, it will be enough for a very long time. The only Federals I need now are Atlanta, St. Louis and Dallas \$2 bills.

With reference to my trip to Boston, it is dependent on several things, the most important is whether I can unload some of the Gold Collection I recently bought. I laid down something over \$10,000, and until I cash some of it, my bank balance is not so hot. Max Mehl is heading north and since I am trying to make a swap with him for some of the Newcomer coins, I don't want to be out of town when he gets here. I appreciate your interest greatly, and will make a trip up to Boston just as soon as the cash condition referred to above is remedied. I think I can arrange it before you go away.

With reference to the quarter-eagles you refer to, they are poison unless they are rare mint marks or dates. I deposit the common dates in the bank as I find it does not pay the carrying charges to keep them in stock.

Yours very truly,
James G. Macallister

Ed. Note: B. Max Mehl, referred to in the preceding letter, entered business in 1903 and continued activity until his death in 1957. Following the peak of activity of the Chapman brothers, which occurred prior to 1920, B. Max Mehl became America's most active coin dealer. His specialty was conducting auctions—actually mail bid sales (for no in-person participation was involved)—on the numismatic side, and on the public side placing extensive advertisements (newspaper, direct mail, and even radio) for his *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia*, a book listing the prices paid for 1913 Liberty head nickels and other issues. In the early 1930s Mehl was involved with the sale on a consignment basis of the Waldo C. Newcomer Collection, the cabinet of a prominent Baltimore numismatist. Additional information concerning this is given in *The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*, by Q. David Bowers.

* * *

G.L. TILDEN
Antiques
State Road
Northboro, Mass.
April 13, 1932
My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Yours received, sorry I was away when you called. I have sold all the dollars to a dealer. He paid me what I offered you the 1851 and 1852 for; \$150 for the two.

Yours Resp.
G.L. Tilden

* * *

FRANK D. FENDERSON
Parsonsfield, Maine
September 13, 1932
My dear Mr. Nichols:

May I thank you for your kindness in leaving the old railroad photographs here at the office? It is kind of you to remember me, and old railroad and locomotive photographs are certainly one of my hobbies.

You are very welcome to such of the bills of the old Sanford bank as you may desire for historical distribution.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,
Frank D. Fenderson

Ed. Note: Frank D. Fenderson apparently was a source for Sanford (Maine) Bank notes, although by September 1932 Walter P. Nichols already possessed a generous supply of them.

* * *

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
258 Boylston Street
Boston, Mass.

October 14, 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Under instruction from Mr. Wardner, I have arranged for the next meeting to be at the City Club, Room O, Monday, October 24 as usual, and I am notifying the members that you will speak on "Paper Money" and show a number of specimens from your fine collection.

Looking forward to seeing and hearing you, I remain,
Yours very truly,
Shepard Pond,
Secretary

(Text of postcard sent to Boston Numismatic Society members)

The Society will meet at 6:30 p.m.

on Monday, October 24

at Boston City Club, Room O.

Mr. Nichols will speak on "Paper Money" showing specimens from his collection.

Please use the return post card.

Shepard Pond, Secretary

* * *

GEORGE H. BLAKE

12 Highland Ave.

Jersey City, N.J.

October 22nd 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am in receipt of your letter of Oct. 19th. Yes, I was in Boston but did not remain there long. I do not know just when I can get there again. I go to Springfield and Hadley occasionally, and suppose I could slip over to Boston from there, if necessary. I have a son in Springfield. I could send you some notes but hardly anything in ones and twos. If you want fives and tens, I could send quite a number. In fact, I could send on the book of notes I had with me in Boston, but I dread the task of pricing 150 or more notes, and keeping a record of same. This book contains over \$1000. worth of notes at face value, and the transportation fees now by registered mail are very high. Still, I will send it on if you say so.

For several years I have been gathering data for another edition of my book, but have come to the conclusion that as it would cost me a thousand dollars to publish it, and collectors and banks and libraries would purchase about \$500 worth only, I would be left short about \$500. I may, however, publish an addendum which would help out quite well.

Regarding my albums, I do not know whether I will ever be able to supply any more of them. The bookbinder who made them has just made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors.

Hoping to hear from you again, believe me,

Yours truly,

George H. Blake

Ed. Note: George H. Blake was a prominent authority on United States regular-issue paper money and corresponded extensively with Walter P. Nichols on the subject.

* * *

THE CHASE NATIONAL BANK

New York

November 3, 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your good favor of yesterday received. We are much pleased to have the set of notes of the old Sanford Bank.

When you are next in New York if you will call I will endeavor to show you duplicates of types of United States Notes now out of common circulation, that are among my personal accumulation. It may be there are some items in the lot that you might like to have.

Very respectfully,

Farran Zerbe, Curator,

Chase National Bank Collection of Moneys of the World.

Ed. Note: Farran Zerbe was probably the closest equivalent to P.T. Barnum the numismatic world has ever known, with B. Max Mehl being a close runner-up. Both of these gentlemen did much to promote the hobby of numismatics with the general public. Earlier, during the 1904-1915 years, Zerbe attended numerous expositions and in some instances distributed commemorative coins, the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition being one of several examples.

* * *

GRINNELL BROTHERS

Detroit, Mich.

November 16, 1932

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your valued letter of November 14th received together with enclosure of check for \$27.00 in payment for the lot of Federal Reserve Bank notes which I sent you on November 9th. Please accept my thanks for your kind-interest in sending remittance so promptly.

Glad to note you were well pleased with the special forms which I sent you for listing your currency. Note that you are in the public accounting business so am sure you will be much pleased with this method of listing your collection of paper money and will find it very convenient for reference.

I will be glad to have you send me a list of your notes at your convenience which I will keep before me and as I find duplicates that I think will interest you will be glad to forward them to you for inspection. You need not feel under any obligation at any time to keep any more notes than you feel justified in keeping.

Note you say you do not know how to improve the condition of paper money by cleaning and pressing. I have had a lot of experience in cleaning bills for my collection and have enjoyed it very much. The process I use is as follows:- In my bathroom I have a wash bowl sufficiently large to lay a bill out smooth by the side of the bowl. I use an old lather brush and apply warm water with the brush spreading it as evenly as possible usually working the brush from the center towards each end. By so doing it has a tendency to straighten out any wrinkles there may be in the bill. I usually apply this process on the face of the bill and then turn the bill over and repeat the operation on the back putting only a sufficient amount of moisture on the bill to straighten out the creases so the bill will be smooth. I then lay the bill on an ordinary white blotter on an ironing board. I then use the edge of another blotter and carefully dry the bill with the blotter drawing it from the center to each end of the bill. This makes the bill entirely smooth. I then put another blotter on top of the bill and press with a hot flat iron on one side and then turn the blotters and bill over and press on the other side. I do this until the bill has sufficiently dried and you will usually find that the bill is very much improved in condition.

If the bill is considerably soiled with dirt I use a very small amount of Ivory soap on the brush but rub the dirt very little as the soap may take off part of the ink as well as the dirt so it damages the bill. As a matter of fact I do not use any soap except in extreme cases. If you should have occasion to use any soap on a bill, before proceeding with the drying and pressing operations, be sure that the soap is carefully rinsed off with clear water. If the soap is not removed it will make the bill sticky. In rinsing you must be careful not to get too much water on the bill. Suggest that you experiment with several ordinary bills which have no premium value and in different states of preservation so you will become more efficient in the method of cleaning. This is rather a rambling explanation but think perhaps you will be able to gain enough information so you can clean and press your bills quite satisfactorily. If I can be of any further service to you kindly advise.

With best regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Albert A. Grinnell

Ed. Note: This is the first of many letters excerpted from Albert A. Grinnell, who in the 1930s had the largest organized collection of United States paper money in existence, although various hoards possessed by Col. E.H.R. Green gave it competition. Green, however, was hardly a scholar, while Grinnell was intensely interested in research. The above letter will perhaps startle present-day paper money collectors in that Grinnell gives explicit details concerning how he improved paper money by cleaning and pressing, a subject that was to become taboo in later years. In the 1940s Grinnell's collection was auctioned by Barney Bluestone, the Syracuse (New York) dealer.

* * *

ALBERT H. WIGGIN
CHAIRMAN GOVERNORS BOARD

CHARLES S. MCCAIN
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WINTERBOP W. ALDRICH
VICE CHAIRMAN GOVERNORS BOARD AND PRESIDENT

JOHN McHUON
CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chase National Bank

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

New York November 3, 1932.

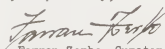
Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson Street,
Melrose, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your good favor of yesterday received.
We are much pleased to have the set of notes
of the old Sanford Bank.

When you are next in New York if you
will call I will endeavor to show you duplicates
of types of United States Notes now out of common
circulation, that are among my personal accu-
mulation. It may be there are some items in the
lot that you might like to have.

Very respectfully,


Farran Zerbe, Curator,
Chase National Bank Collection
of Moneys of the World.

FZ:CK.

Farran Zerbe was the numismatic hobby's equivalent of P.T. Barnum. During the early part of the 20th century he was a showman deluxe and traveled all over the United States to promote coin collecting, to mount exhibits at conventions, and to operate concessions at fairs and expositions, often reporting his exploits by means of articles published in "The Numismatist," a publication which he eventually acquired (and later transmitted to the American Numismatic Association). Zerbe's collection was acquired by the Chase National Bank and was displayed in New York City for many years.

GRINNELL BROTHERS
Detroit, Mich.

November 22, 1932

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your very kind letter of November 20th received and note fully all you say.

Note you are considering having a special form printed to use for your coins and that you have written the Lefax Co. direct regarding it. In case you should decide to have some of the forms printed I would be glad to have you send me one as a sample as I may decide to list my coins and keep a list of them in a Lefax binder. I realize, however, it would be quite a big job to do it and since my time is taken to a large extent in the conduct of our business and I only have my evenings, Sundays and holidays to work on my hobby, it may be some time before I could get to it. However, I derive a great amount of pleasure from my collection of currency and devote a large percentage of my spare time to this work.

Note you have a large collection of fractional currency but that you have not tried to make a record of same as yet. I also have quite a large collection of fractional but have never attempted to make a record of it. I also have a large number of fractional duplicates of the different issues and denominations. Note you have about three bundles of the fifth issue, Meredith 10c, red seal, which as I understand are in the original packages. No doubt these are very attractive but it is hard to find customers who really care to buy so many of any one issue and denomination. If you care to quote me your lowest price on these I will be glad to bear the subject in mind and if I have an opportunity to dispose of them for you will be glad to do so.

Note what you say about being desirous of acquiring a full sheet of fractional currency to have framed for your coin room. I have a duplicate uncut sheet consisting of 25 pieces 3c, third issue, which I would be glad to dispose of and will make you a special price on this sheet of \$20.00. I have several uncut sheets of the different denominations and issues but have only this one duplicate. The face of the sheet is in Very Fine condition but the back is slightly soiled. However, if you have it framed the soil would not be noticeable as the back would be covered. Have decided to send this sheet to you on approval and the same is going forward by registered mail under separate cover. Will be glad to have you inspect it and trust it will meet with your approval, in which event you can send remittance for the above amount.

Note what you say about the small size notes and that you have not as yet put any of these in your collection. I have quite a large number of these notes in the vault and expect to take them home with me some time within the next week or so and will be glad at that time to check them over and send you some of my duplicates on approval and you can rest assured the prices will be reasonable. Note what you say about having called at the Federal Reserve Bank and if you are able to secure any notes with Mills' signature will be glad to have you get a limited number for me—say 10 or 20 of the \$1.00 with as attractive serial numbers as possible.

Note what you say about having purchased some albums of Blake recently and that he made you a price on the large size of \$12.00 less 10% discount. The last lot I bought from Blake was in May, 1931 and he charged me \$12.25 each net at that time and I paid the transportation charges in addition, so you have been fortunate in securing a low price from him. I am mailing one of these albums to you under separate cover by insured parcel post as per your request and if you think \$12.00 is too much for it will be glad to have you send me your check for whatever price is satisfactory. The album he has been supplying me with were especially well bound and it may be they cost a little extra on that account. However, you can tell by making a comparison, and will be glad to supply the album to you and will leave it with you to fix the price.

Note that you are in the market for a \$4.00 gold piece. I have one in my collection which I purchased of Guttag Bros. in June, 1925, and for which I paid them \$95.00. It is an 1879 Proof with flowing hair and I have decided to sell it to you at the same price I paid for it if you care to buy it. My reason for disposing of it is that business conditions are not very good in Detroit at the present time and I thought I could use the proceeds of the sale of this coin to good advantage at Christmas time. I am enclosing this coin herewith on approval. If you do not consider buying it please do not feel under any obligation to do so. If you desire to buy it I can assure you it is a splendid bargain at my price.

Evidently you had not received the shipment of U.S. currency at the time you wrote your letter. I will be glad to receive a report from you on this

shipment and am quite sure you will be very much interested in it especially at the low prices I have quoted.

With kindest regards, I remain,
Yours very truly
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

JAMES G. MACALLISTER
3400 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA.

December 8th, 1932

Dear Mr. Nichols:-

Your letter received.

I expect to get to Boston Saturday morning Dec. 10th, and will stay at the Parker House as usual. If you drop me a line there as to when we can get together, I can surely arrange any time that is convenient for you. Will probably not leave Boston until Sunday evening or Monday, so trust that sometime during the interval you will have some leisure time to spend with me.

Yours very truly,
James G. Macallister

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.

December 15, 1932

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated December 7 transmitting \$4.65 in stamps and requesting certain coins for your collection.

In reply you are advised that 1932 double eagles and eagles have been coined by the Philadelphia Mint, 1932 quarters have been coined by each of the three coinage mints, and 1932 cents have been coined by the Denver and Philadelphia Mints; the San Francisco Mint has not coined any cents this year.

The maximum number of one-cent pieces of each coinage year and mint now furnished to coin collectors is ten; there are forwarded herewith; for your coin collection, four new 1932 quarters of each mint's coinage and ten new 1932 cents each of the Denver and Philadelphia coinage.

The mail charges hereon amount to 36c, and the balance of \$1.09 due you is returned in cash.

Respectfully,
Assistant Treasurer

* * *



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
BY REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS
WJN

December 15, 1932.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 West Emerson Street,
Melrose, Mass.

Sir:

REGISTERED MAIL

Reference is made to your letter dated December 7 transmitting \$4.65 in stamps and requesting certain coins for your collection.

In reply you are advised that 1932 double eagles and eagles have been coined by the Philadelphia Mint, 1932 quarters have been coined by each of the three coinage mints, and 1932 cents have been coined by the Denver and Philadelphia Mints; the San Francisco Mint has not coined any cents this year.

The maximum number of one-cent pieces of each coinage year and mint now furnished to coin collectors is ten; there are forwarded herewith, for your coin collection, four new 1932 quarters of each mint's coinage and ten new 1932 cents each of the Denver and Philadelphia coinage.

The mail charges hereon amount to 36¢, and the balance of \$1.09 due you is returned in cash.

Respectfully,

Assistant Treasurer.

Inclosures

This December 1932 letter advises Walter P. Nichols that certain gold and other coins have been struck by the various mints and that pieces are available for collections. At the time it was the policy of the Treasury Department to sell pieces in limited quantities to interested numismatists, even though such pieces might not have been released yet for general circulation. Years later the Treasury Department was to take the stand that a coin minted in the following year, the 1933 double eagle, was not legal to own, for none had been "officially released." However, extensive correspondence with Walter P. Nichols abundantly indicates that had he desired to purchase such a coin he could have done so in the year of mintage. Under the American system, people are innocent until proven guilty. Likewise, it seems to the present editor that a coin should be viewed as legally held unless someone can specifically prove otherwise. Accordingly, there is a good case for the legitimacy of holding a 1933 double eagle. This has been a controversial point for many years.

Correspondence from 1933

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Office of Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.

January 13, 1933

Honorable David I. Walsh,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

I have your letter of January 10 enclosing a letter to you from Mr. Walter P. Nichols of Melrose, Massachusetts, with further reference to obtaining an additional quantity of new one-cent pieces.

As you know, the Government's coins are manufactured for specific use as a medium of exchange, and for that purpose unlimited amounts may be obtained, but there is no law requiring the Treasury to furnish either new coins or coins of any particular year's mintage.

The Treasury's policy with respect to coins, which was adopted many years ago in the interest of economy, has been outlined in previous correspondence. In recent years the volume of excess used coins in the hands of Federal reserve banks and branches has steadily increased to the point where the matter of adequate storage space now presents a serious problem. Moreover, during a period of curtailed expenditures it would appear to be inadvisable to issue new coins when an overabundance of circulated is available.

The Department accommodates coin collectors by furnishing a few pieces of the available new coins for their collections, but it does not feel that it would be justified in establishing a precedent by supplying one hundred pieces of each mint's coinage to any one person when it is uniformly limiting the number to ten pieces. Obviously it would be unjust to grant one request and not all, and to grant all requests received for new coins would result in a substantial increase in cost to the Government over the present procedure. It is always difficult for each applicant for new coins to realize how one application for a relatively small amount can have any appreciable effect on the situation, but if the amounts requested were supplied to all applicants, the aggregate would be considerable.

Mr. Nichols' letter is returned herewith as requested.

Very truly yours,
W.O. Woods
Treasurer

Ed. Note: The preceding letter represents one of several efforts made by Senator David I. Walsh on behalf of his constituent, Walter P. Nichols.

* * *

FRANK O. BROWN

215 Beacon Street
Worcester, Mass.

Jan. 20, 1933

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am going to let the Masonic pennies go. And as stated at last meeting you have first chance if you desire them. There are 107 pieces, all different varieties, price for the lot \$30.00.

If wanted let me know at once so that I can bring them to next meeting.

Sincerely yours,
Frank O. Brown

* * *

(Reproduction of document from the Treasury Department, February 1933)
COMPLETE LIST OF UNCIRCULATED COINS FURNISHED FOR
SPECIAL PURPOSES.

Philadelphia Coinage:

1921 Morgan type silver dollars (only a few available these are tarnished)

1921 Peace design silver dollars
1924 Peace design silver dollars
1925 Peace design silver dollars
1926 Peace design silver dollars
1927 Peace design silver dollars
1928 Peace design silver dollars
1930 quarters
1931 dimes
1931 cents
1932 quarters
1932 cents
1933 cents

Denver Coinage:

1921 Morgan type silver dollars
1922 Peace design silver dollars
1926 Peace design silver dollars
1927 Peace design silver dollars
1929 halves
1931 dimes
1931 cents
1932 quarters
1932 cents
1933 cents

San Francisco Coinage:

1921 Morgan type silver dollars
1922 Peace design silver dollars
1923 Peace design silver dollars
1924 Peace design silver dollars
1925 Peace design silver dollars
1926 Peace design silver dollars
1927 Peace design silver dollars
1928 Peace design silver dollars
1929 halves
1930 quarters
1931 dimes
1931 nickels
1931 cents
1932 quarters
1933 halves

Applications for any of the coins should be forwarded direct to the Treasurer of the United States, they should state the purpose for which the coins are desired, and they should be accompanied by a remittance for the face value of the coins and an amount sufficient to cover the mail charges by first-class mail, either registered or unregistered at the applicants' risk, as requested.

Ed. Note: The preceding list gives coins, including numerous issues of earlier dates, available to collectors from the Treasury Department in February 1933. In addition, a statement listing the mintage of 1933 double eagles (and other 1933 coins) was appended, perhaps implying that these also could be ordered—but in the Depression year of 1933, gold coins of any kind were not the subject of general correspondence from the Treasury, for few collectors could afford them or had the interest.

* * *

GRINNELL BROTHERS
Detroit, Mich.

February 22, 1933

Mr. Walter P. Nichols:

On account of the banking conditions here in Detroit at the present time I am unable to cash your check or get credit for same on my account as out of state checks are only accepted for collection, so thought under the circumstances I would return your check and ask you to send me the amount in currency by registered mail deducting the amount of the registration fees. This will be quite an accommodation to me as currency is very hard to secure in Detroit at this time as the banks are paying depositors only 5% of the amount they have on deposit. Note what you say about paying me within thirty days on the balance due and this is perfectly agreeable to me but since the banking situation does not look like it will clear up for some time, suggest when you send remittance that you send it in currency deducting the amount of the registration charges.

Trusting that my returning the two notes and the explanation of same will meet with your approval and with best regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

Ed. Note: Banking times were tough in the early months of the Roosevelt administration, and before the Depression ended a few years later, over 10,000 financial institutions went under. This letter of February 22, 1933 tells of the strictures.

* * *

JAMES G. MACALLISTER
3400 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Feb. 28, 1933

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Received the pair of coin-dippers the other day and greatly appreciate your kindness in sending it to me. I have never tried using acid on a coin, so have not had any excuse to use them, but believe they would be a great help to any one who wanted to dip a coin in acid. Why they should ever want to do so, I don't know. The only thing I ever use is cyanide, and since that doesn't hurt the hands your contrivance would not be of any use in using it. With cyanide it is necessary to do a good bit of rubbing with the fingers, so your instrument would not answer that purpose. As to the sale of such an article, I think it would be very limited and doubt very much if it would justify any expenditure. I don't think collectors should be encouraged to clean coins, as cleaning does a lot more damage than good in most instances. The only things I ever attempt to clean are Proofs which have turned black, if they are just tarnished, I leave them alone as many collectors prefer them that way.

Expect to sell your Philippine coins either late in March or early in April.

Again thanking you for the dipper, I remain,

Yours very truly,
James G. Macallister

Ed. Note: Present-day collectors are warned that the use of cyanide is not only dangerous to one's health but also to one's very life! Indeed, it has been stated that J. Sanford Saltus, a prominent numismatist shortly after the turn of the present century, met his death from cyanide fumes while treating coins in this time-honored fashion.

* * *

GRINNELL BROTHERS
Detroit, Mich.

March 1, 1933

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your valued letters of February 25th and 26th received together with enclosures as stated for which please accept my thanks.

I appreciate your sending me the seventy-five \$1.00 bills as it saves me having larger denominations changed at the banks. However, it is not necessary for you to send small denominations as so far the banks have

been open to make change and at the present time are paying 5% on the amount of the deposit.

The banking situation in Detroit is very critical and business is almost at a standstill. So far as doing business by check it is impossible to do so as all checks are being returned to the drawer. It is almost impossible to get a check cashed and many people are in need of ready cash as 95% of their money cannot be withdrawn, so you can readily see what trouble we are in here.

Will be glad to have you send the balance due me of \$60.00 at your convenience in currency by registered mail, deducting the registration charges, at the same time deduct the charges for sending the previous lot of \$75.00.

I sincerely appreciate your kindness in offering to have one of my checks cashed and send the currency to me, but am afraid you would have difficulty in cashing the check at any bank as they are undoubtedly aware that Detroit banks are not permitting withdrawals to exceed 5% and the withdrawals have to be made in cash in person.

I was of the opinion that you would decide to keep the two \$5.00 Uncirculated notes and return the others as I know you are becoming a real collector and a real collector generally wants to secure notes or coins in the very best possible condition.

Assuring you that your many kindness to me have been very much appreciated and with best regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

WALTER P. NICHOLS
212 W. Emerson Street
Melrose, Mass.

March 2, 1933

Dear Mr. Ackerman:

I would like to buy a lot of small Uncirculated cents. Have you any? I could use 1000 of Indian head cents. Do you know where I can get them?

Let me know what you have for sale in large lots, I may be able to use them.

Sincerely,
Walter P. Nichols

[Ackerman then replied in a footnote to Nichols' letter]

Dear Mr. Nichols:

All cleaned out of small cents except for 1922. Have 11 1922 Uncirculated, 2 1922 Very Good, 1 1922 Very Good (no mint mark).

If interested you may have the lot for \$2.50. That "no mint mark" is going to be a good variety sometime. I paid \$1.00 for this one at an auction.

Sincerely,
L.D. Ackerman

P.S. Still doing well with large cents!

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.
March 20, 1933
Sir:

With reference to your letter of March 14 transmitting a postal money order for \$4.00, there are forwarded herewith for your collection new coins as follows:

Denver coinage:
Ten 1933 cents. \$0.10
Philadelphia coinage:
Ten 1933 cents. 10

According to the latest daily coin reports received in this office from the three coinage mints dimes and quarters have not been coined this year.

Regarding your statement that this office informed you that no dimes were coined in 1932 and that the San Francisco Mint did not coin any 1932 cents, whereas you find upon examination of the report of the Director of the Mint, presumably his annual report for the fiscal year 1932, that such coins were minted, it is suggested that you advise this office as to the page number of the report containing such information.

The balance of \$3.53 due after deducting 27c for mail charges is returned herewith in cash.

Respectfully,
W.O. Woods
Treasurer

* * *

JAMES G. MACALLISTER
3400 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

March 28, 1933
Dear Mr. Nichols:

Yours of the 25th at hand.

Note how you feel about auction sales, and will withdraw your lots and return them to you intact, the extra set of Proofs were in the lot and I had intended to fill the two high bids with them.

With reference to the Bluestone sale, I think the Stella and the 1852 dollar were the only lots that Bluestone mentioned to me that you had bid on and he asked me if I thought you would keep them if he bought them for you. I looked at the coins and told him they were certainly not worth what you had bid and I doubted if you would keep them as they were not up to description. Chapman had also bid \$71 on the Stella and I told him Chapman would certainly return it if he sent it to him. Mr. Chapman thanked me for my interest in his behalf. The Stella was bought by Joseph Barnett of N.Y. for \$66 and the 1852 was bought by Bolender for \$41 and neither coin was worth what it brought. The Stella had a bad scratch and was not a Proof, and the 1852 was all nicked up. They were not saleable coins at any price, and I felt that I was doing you a favor in steering them away from you, but certainly now regret that I did anything of the kind. I have been attending auction sales for twenty years, and in that time have never seen anything in a legitimate auction sale, that is one that is public, that warranted any remarks like those contained in your letter. I will send your letter to all dealers holding sales so that they may be very careful in dealing with you in the future, that is, if they care to deal with you at all.

Ed. Note: Apparently Walter P. Nichols rubbed James G. Macallister the wrong way, for the body of the preceding letter indicates Macallister's intent to warn other dealers concerning Mr. Nichols' actions! One can surmise that Nichols in good faith bid on coins offered at auction by Barney Bluestone. Macallister felt that the coins were overdescribed and did not act as Nichols' agent, and that Nichols felt that Macallister should have acquired them anyway—perhaps believing they were not as bad as Macallister indicated.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent out by Walter P. Nichols)
Mr. Henry S. Knowles
172 Page St.
New Bedford, Mass.

The 1928 Oregon Trail half dollar is just out. A very limited supply issued. Price is \$1.60 postage paid. Can make immediate delivery. If you want one, send at once.

Walter P. Nichols

Ed. Note: Henry S. Knowles, Box 280, New Bedford, Mass. responded to the postcard ordering one piece, which was duly sent on April 3, 1933. This was during the early stages of Walter P. Nichols' involvement with commemorative pieces. Widespread interest was just beginning.

* * *

GRINNELL BROTHERS
Detroit, Mich.

April 1, 1933

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your valued letter of March 30th received together with enclosure of \$200.00 in currency consisting of twenty \$5.00 and five \$20.00 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston notes of the new issue.

Note fully all you say and want you to know I sincerely appreciate your kindness and effort in trying to secure the low numbers for me. If you are able to secure some of them later will appreciate your notifying me. I will undoubtedly keep only one or two of those you sent as the serial numbers do not appeal to me.

Note what you say about the registration and cost of insurance being high and am sorry I did not advise you not to have the package insured as I carry a floating policy on my collection which covers any part of it while in transit. This explains the low amount of postage on the \$200.00 which you received from me.

Our banking conditions are somewhat improved here in Detroit since the National Bank of Detroit was opened by General Motors and the R.F.C., so it will be agreeable to me for you to send your check any time at your convenience. Please deduct from the check the amount of postage, registration and any other expense that you were put to in securing the new Federal Reserve Bank notes for me.

Hoping that I may be able to reciprocate at some later date for your kindness and with best regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Bayside, Long Island, New York

April 1933

ANNOUNCEMENT:

In response to urgent requests from over the country, our Association is now releasing a limited number of the Oregon Trail Memorial half dollars of the 1928 issue, and offering them for sale with the few remaining of the 1926 issue on the following terms:

1. Set of three coins (one 1928, one 1926 San Francisco Mint, one 1926 Philadelphia Mint) \$3.75

2. Set of two coins (one 1928, one of either the San Francisco or the Philadelphia Mint) to any person who has purchased directly from the Association since January 1, 1932, one of the 1926 coins \$2.75

3. One 1928 coin—to any person who has purchased directly from our Association since January 1, 1932, two or more of the 1926 coins \$1.75

4. Ten 1928 with ten 1926 coins of either San Francisco or Philadelphia Mint or both \$22.00

This discount of 20% will apply on orders of equal numbers of 1928 and 1926 coins up to 90 of each.

5. For prices on 200 or more coins equally divided between the 1928 and the 1926 issues, write our Association.

Note: The above prices hold only for April 1933. All coins are Uncirculated. Orders accompanied by money order or draft on New York Bank will be promptly filled. Coins will be sent by registered mail postpaid, unless otherwise ordered.

OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

* * *

FRANK O. BROWN

215 Beacon Street
Worcester, Mass.

May 23, 1933

Dear Walter:

Enclosed find the Capt. Cook [1928 Hawaiian] half dollar desired. This is one of the originals as received from Hawaii in the letter they came in. It will have to be dipped to remove the discoloration as they all came that way due to being sent from Philadelphia in an envelope that contains sulphur.

Sincerely,
F. Brown

* * *

GORTON-PEW FISHERIES COMPANY, LTD.

327 Main St.
Gloucester, Mass.

May 25, 1933

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I understand you were talking with one of our employees regarding our cancelled issue of scrip. The time for redemption has expired, and we have redeemed and cancelled all but a few of the pieces. If you are interested in purchasing approximately 8000 units in dollar, fifty cent, and twenty-five cent denominations and care to make an offer, we should be glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,
GORTON-PEW FISHERIES CO., LTD.

Ed. Note: During the Bank Holiday declared on March 4, 1933, and continued for a short time thereafter, all banks were closed, and transactions in United States took place in many instances by privately-issued scrip notes which were redeemable by chambers of commerce, private individuals, firms, and others. The collecting of such pieces became an intense pursuit shortly after the Bank Holiday was discontinued. Walter P. Nichols made many inquiries concerning quantities of redeemed and unused scrip notes, striking paydirt with the Gorton-Pew correspondence cited above.

GORTON-PEW FISHERIES COMPANY, LTD.

327 Main St.
Gloucester, Mass.

May 29th, 1933

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging your letter of May 26th to our Mr. Bundy would say we are today sending to your address by parcel post the entire lot of scrip and we trust same arrives in due time.

Very truly yours,
GORTON PEW FISHERIES COMPANY LTD.
E.W. Havner, Office Manager

Ed. Note: Pencil notes by Walter Nichols reveal that the lot contained 950 25-cent notes, 1,000 50-cent notes, and 8,000 dollar notes. The 25-cent notes were serially numbered from 2001 through 2998, with numbers 2500 to 2549 missing; the 50-cent notes were numbered from 4001 to 5000, and the \$1 notes were numbered from 6001 to 13,999.

* * *

GORTON-PEW FISHERIES COMPANY, LTD.

327 Main St.
Gloucester, Mass.

June 9, 1933

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In reply to your letter of June 8 we have sent you all of the scrip issued, except a few pieces reserved as souvenirs by the officers of the company, and of course those pieces which were not redeemed prior to the expiration of the time limit.

The original issue contained 10,000 pieces; 8,000 one's numbered from P6001 to P14000; 1,000 fifty cent pieces numbered from R4001 to R5000; and 1,000 twenty-five cent pieces numbered from G2001 to G3000. These were the only numbers issued. The other numbers remaining blank were left in case it should be necessary to add to any of the series by a second issue. The letters G, P, and R were arbitrarily chosen to designate the different denominations, standing in fact for Gorton Pew and the R sound in the word Gorton.

We appreciated at the time it was issued that the type of paper used would permit ready counterfeiting. That was the principal reason why we had a sixty-day time limit and why we kept an accurate record of the numbers redeemed. The Gloucester National Bank, who acted as paying agent for us was supplied with these numbers, and in no case could duplications arise.

At the time of issuance we had an insurance policy which the Company assured us would cover counterfeiting of the issue. Later, however, they found they were so deluged with similar cases that they reversed their position and excluded scrip from the policy.

The above covers most of the details the writer thinks of at the moment, but would be glad to give you any further information he is able. Meanwhile, if you are satisfied, we should appreciate your check.

Very truly yours,
GORTON-PEW FISHERIES CO., LTD.

* * *

GORTON-PEW FISHERIES COMPANY, LTD.

327 Main Street
Gloucester, Mass.

June 20, 1933

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of June 16th and thank you for your check in payment of the scrip.

With regard to the numbers 2500 to 2549 I am under the impression that a good many of these were given to the officers as mementos and can assure you that there is not a likelihood of their going into general circulation. The reason this group was distributed in this manner is that it seemed to be in especially clean shape and naturally those of us who had anything to do with the issue of the scrip were anxious to have as good copies as possible.

We trust you will find the purchase an advantageous one and would be pleased if you could advise us when your article is published so that we may see a copy.

Very truly yours,

GORTON-PEW FISHERIES, CO., LTD.

* * *

GUTTAG BROS.

New York

August 12, 1933

Dear Sir:

Please advise me what you would charge for a set of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company, Ltd. scrip currency which they issued.

I am a collector of the various scrip, and have quite a collection of same; I would therefore, like to obtain a set of the above mentioned scrip.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Yours very truly,
Julius Gutttag

Ed. Note: Julius Gutttag, who was primarily in the securities business, dabbled in numismatics during the 1920s and 1930s. Advertisements filled with superlatives were placed by the Gutttag Brothers in various publications.

* * *

THE NUMISMATIST

F.G. Duffield, Editor and Manager
4215 Fernhill Ave., Baltimore, Md.

Oct. 12, 1933

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 10th inst., with check for \$5.10 and copy for half-page advertisement for November issue.

I will be glad to publish the description of the scrip you send, but it will not be possible to illustrate it. There has been so much of this emergency scrip that to attempt to illustrate it would be very expensive. We have, however, illustrated a few issues which were of general interest or had some features which made them of more than usual interest.

Now that the occasion for this emergency scrip is past, I have no doubt someone will undertake to compile a list of the different issues. The scrip is enclosed.

Very truly yours,
F.G. Duffield

* * *

PERERA COMPANY

26 Broadway
New York

November 8, 1933

Dear Sir:

If the 80 \$2.50 gold pieces which you have for sale, as you inform us with your letter of Nov. 4, are in good condition, we will pay you \$3.25 for each coin delivered to us.

Should you accept our price, you may send the coins by registered mail or by express.

With reference to \$1.00 gold coins, we pay \$2.00, for the \$3.00 gold coins we pay \$4.50, for the \$5.00 and \$10.00 we pay \$6.50 and \$13.00 respectively, for numismatic specimens only.

With regards to old silver, we purchase it at the rate of 27 cents an ounce for coins .875 fine or of a better fineness, as you are aware that melting and refining charges are quite costly, and absorb the difference of pure silver .999 plus which we sell today around 42 cents an ounce.

Yours very truly,
PERERA COMPANY

* * *

J.N. SPIRO

437 Lyons Ave.,
Newark, N.J.

Nov. 10, 1933

TO: Walter P. Nichols, Esq.
SUBJECT: New Jersey Cents

Noticed your ad in "Hobbies," and am taking a chance that you may have a few Jersey cents in stock. Am interested in these only at present, and am studying die varieties and breaks, so can use almost anything.

If you will submit on approval, promise to make returns by return mail, by registered or insured parcel post.

References:

Clarke Coin Co., LeRoy, N.Y.
B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas
Chas. H. Fisher, Guardian Bldg. Cleveland, Ohio
Norman Shultz, Salt Lake City

Very truly yours,
J.N. Spiro

Ed. Note: Jacob N. Spiro formed an extensive cabinet of 1786-1788 New Jersey coppers, a group which was dispersed at auction nearly 20 years after the date of the above letter.

* * *

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CATALOGUED FOR
SALE AT AUCTION

EXPERT
APPRAISEMENTS
MADE

November 18th, 1933,

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson St.,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Sir,

Your letter received and we take pleasure in quoting the following coins, all we have at the moment of those you ask for. Shall be glad to have your order for any of them.

- 1799 cent, date good. \$10.50 One with remarkable date ~~\$10~~ \$20.
- 1799 over 1798 Good. \$40. Ex. fine \$200. One with a wonderful date, corrosion spot on head, \$30.
- 1800 over 1798 Good. \$35.
- 1804 broken dies, corroded surface, \$17. Fine \$45. One at \$24.
- 1839 over 1836 very good, 2 edge dents, \$8.50.

Half dimes.

- 1797 - 16 stars, very fine \$14.
- 1802 Poor. Date excellent, \$55.

Quarters.

- 1855 S Poor \$3.50.
- 1858 S Poor. \$1.50
- 1859 S Fair. \$1.25
- 1872 Poor \$1.
- 1907 S Uncirculated \$1.
- 1924 S Uncirculated \$1.
- 1924 D Uncirculated \$1.

Halves.

- 1923 S Uncirculated \$2.
- 1928 S Uncirculated \$2.

Gold Dollars

- 1876 semi proof \$7.50
- 1877 Brilliant \$10. Very fine (4)
- 1879 Uncirculated. Brilliant \$7. Ex. fine (3) \$3.50
- 1880 proof (12)
- 1881 proof \$5. Ex. fine (4)
- 1882 Brilliant \$6. Uncirculated (4)

- 1866 \$2.50 S Mint. Good. \$4.50.

Yours very truly,

Henry Chapman

By 1933 Henry Chapman was in the twilight years of his life, but still his office corresponded extensively with Walter P. Nichols and other collectors. This letter offers quotations on various items. Henry Chapman's final fling in numismatics was the appraisal (with B.G. Johnson) of the Virgil Brand estate in the early 1930s. Details of this fascinating endeavor are recounted in the editor's book "Virgil Brand: The Man and His Era, Profile of a Numismatist."

GRINNELL BROTHERS

Detroit, Mich.

November 10, 1933

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your very kind letter of November 8th received together with enclosure of three specimens of scrip, 25c, 50c and 1.00, of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries, Co., Ltd. Please accept my thanks and appreciation for your kindness in sending these to me. I have added these specimens to my collection of scrip. Am very much interested in the same although I have not made any special effort to secure it. I have two or three friends who are specializing in the collection of scrip and who have occasionally sent me a duplicate set which I have added to my collection. I have a duplicate set of Chicago Clearing House certificates, -1158, consisting of six specimens, which I am herewith enclosing to you with my compliments.

I notice that you have an ad in "The Numismatist" to sell the Gorton-Pew Fisheries scrip and am wondering what success you are meeting with. If you are not able to sell all of it to advantage and care to send me a set or two, I assure you it will be well received and I will forward a set to my friend who supplied me with the Chicago Clearing House certificates which I am enclosing herewith. I will be glad to be on the lookout for more duplicates in scrip which, if I secure, will be glad to forward to you.

Very sorry you were not able to attend the convention, but quite agree with you that since you had a job to work on you no doubt fared better than you would to have attended the convention. I spent two or three hours each on three afternoons attending the fair but it was very tiresome and I found it more to my advantage to stay at the convention and look after my exhibit as closely as possible.

Note what you say about securing some notes with Woodin's signature and hope to be able to secure some of these notes within the next few days in which event I will be glad to forward some of them to you.

Assuring you that your good wishes and kind thoughts are very much appreciated and with best regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

WALTER P. NICHOLS

212 West Emerson Street
Melrose, Mass.

November 13, 1933

Mr. J.C. Dalrymple
Box 302
Clinton, N.J.

Dear Mr. Dalrymple:

I received your letter of November 11th, and wish to thank you for your inquiry.

I have the 1909-5 mint Indian head cents on hand and the price is forty cents for Uncirculated coins. Also have the 1909-5 mint Lincoln with the V.D.B. and the price is twenty cents for Uncirculated coins.

If you care for any of these I would be pleased to hear from you. Also if you are interested in any other coins I would be pleased to know just what you wish, as I have a large stock of Uncirculated coins on hand.

Thanking you again for your letter, I am,

Sincerely,
Walter P. Nichols

Ed. Note: This letter from Walter P. Nichols to J.C. Dalrymple is in response to a client who inquired from one of his advertisements, possibly from *The Numismatist* or *Hobbies*, his two main advertising media. A footnote on the letter indicates that J.C. Dalrymple ordered one each of the two coins and sent United States postage stamps in payment.

* * *

HENRY CHAPMAN
333 South Sixteenth St.
Philadelphia, PA.

November 18th 1933

Dear Sir:

Your letter received and we take pleasure in quoting the following coins, all we have at the moment of those you ask for. Shall be glad to have your order for any of them.

1799 cent, Date Good. \$10.50. One with remarkable date \$20.
1799 over 1798 Good. \$40. Ex. Fine \$200. One with a wonderful date, corrosion spot on head. \$30.
1800 over 1798 Good. \$3.
1804 broken dies, corroded surface, \$17. Fine \$45. One at \$24.
1839 over 1836 Very Good. 2 edge dents, \$8.50.

Half dimes,
1797 - 16 stars, Very Fine \$14.
1802 Poor. date excellent, \$55.

Quarters,
1855-S Poor \$3.50.
1858-S Poor \$1.50.
1859-S Fair \$1.25.
1872-S Poor \$1.
1907-S Uncirculated \$1.
1924-S Uncirculated \$1.
1924-D Uncirculated \$1.

Halves,
1923-S Uncirculated \$2.
1928-S Uncirculated \$2.

Gold dollars,
1876 semi-Proof \$7.50.
1877 Brilliant \$10. Very Fine \$4.
1879 Uncirculated, Brilliant \$7. Ex. Fine \$3 50.
1880 Proof \$10.
1881 Proof \$5. Ex. Fine \$4.
1882 Brilliant \$6. Uncirculated \$4.
1866 \$2.50 5 Mint. Good \$4.50

Yours very truly,
Henry Chapman

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Office of the Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.

November 20, 1933

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of November 18, relative to your desire to secure certain \$1.00 and \$2.00 silver certificates.

You are informed that as yet none of the \$1.00 silver certificates, having thereon the names of Mr. Woodin and Mr. Julian, as Secretary of the Treasury and Treasurer of the United States respectively, have been placed in general circulation. However, three or five of these notes can be obtained at this office by remitting their face value, plus eighteen cents for return charges. No \$2.00 silver certificates have been issued.

With respect to securing an undivided sheet of \$1.00 notes, it will be necessary for you to correspond with the Secretary of the Treasury concerning your wishes in the matter.

Respectfully,
Assistant Treasurer

* * *

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1985

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.

November 21, 1933

Sir:

With reference to your letter of November 17, you are advised that double eagles, eagles, and cents have been coined by the Philadelphia Mint, the Denver Mint has coined cents, and half dollars have been coined by the San Francisco Mint this year. Under the present regulations no gold coins may be supplied.

There is enclosed a revised list of the coins furnished for special purposes.

Respectfully,
Assistant Treasurer

* * *

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
Washington, D.C.

November 25, 1933

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge your letter of November 21, to the Secretary of the Treasury, in which you request an uncut sheet of twelve \$1.00 silver certificates.

In reply you are informed that if you will send \$12.29 in cash or post office money order to the Treasurer, he will forward a twelve note sheet to you by registered mail insured.

Very truly yours,
Special Assistant to the Secretary for Fiscal Affairs

* * *

JOHN B. BOSS
1127 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
November 28, 1933

My dear Sir:

In reply to your recent favor duly to hand, regret to advise that I do not have but one piece to offer according to the list furnished, namely the 1882 Gold Dollar at \$4.50—a highly desirable specimen which I dare say would be classed as a Proof or near Proof by many dealers and collectors.

Registered mail charge will be .20c extra unless you direct it to be sent by ordinary first class letter method and it is understood of course that you have the privilege of returning the coin if it does not prove perfectly satisfactory.

Thanking you for the list which I have filed for future reference and awaiting your pleasure.

Yours very truly,
John B. Boss

* * *

HY BROWN
10701 Amor Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio
December 1, 1933

Kindly send me your price list on coins and paper money.

Thanks,
Hy Brown

Ed. Note: Hy Brown later rose to prominence as a nationally-known rare coin dealer. This December 1, 1933 inquiry on a postcard must have been one of his early endeavors

* * *

Correspondence from 1934

WEBB NURSERY CO. INC.
131-145 Gould Street
Rochester, N.Y.

Jan. 30, 1934

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your long and interesting letter about coins. I had already joined the Numismatic Society, that is sent in my money and blank and I shall likely attend the next meeting of the club on the first Tuesday I think it is in Feb. I knew for many years Dr. George French of this city recently deceased and I see the chap down in Fort Worth says he paid the estate fifty thousand dollars for the doctor's coins. I had never seen them as I have persistently most of my life stuck to shells. I done the same as you have and are doing, bought the life work of noted people. Some of the collections of shells I have purchased the owners during their lifetime put in over fifty thousand dollars. Of course I bought them for much less still I have put in large sums of money every year for a great many years.

Right now two of the finest collections in this country and Europe can be bought and if securities had not taken such a terrible drop the chances are I would have gobbled them up but I have been going a little slow for the past year only buying such bargain lots here and there that I thought I could turn over. I do not expect I will buy much of dealers but I would be glad from time to time to buy of collectors like yourself knowing if I got hold of any real bargains you wanted you would do the same.

I have been sending for various booklets and I think I will send for some of the priced catalogues of auction sales as they give a little idea what collectors are paying for them. My daughter is in the antique business and has made a marvelous financial success of it. She has also started writing and brought out a book on glass two years ago that has brought her cash returns up to date far beyond anything I ever dreamed of. All through this depression her cash sales every week have been simply tremendous showing there are still people ready to buy what they wish.

I would like to get a few gold pieces to start with mainly 2½ and 5.00 and maybe in the near future some of the larger sizes. Let me know some you have to spare with prices and I will send a check for what I need to start with. It may not be large but I may come often. I have retired from active business, just handling some nursery orders from a jobbing standpoint and also selling some shells all the time also.

I suspect this fancy coin business is much like my daughter's business, your best trade is with people of large means who are always ready to buy what they want for cash. My daughter does most all her glass business with very wealthy people like Lorimer, the editor of the Sat. Post, who has an income of a million a year, the Duponts of Delaware and hosts of others. They are always ready to buy things they wish for.

Yours very truly,
Walter F. Webb

Ed. Note: Walter P. Nichols frequently wrote letters to collectors whose addresses appeared in *The Numismatist* or other journals, indicating they had joined one society or another. He encouraged them to further their interest in coin collecting and offered his services as a dealer. The preceding letter from Walter F. Webb was in response to such a solicitation. Mr. Webb's daughter apparently is Ruth Webb Lee, a prominent authority on the subject of antique glass.

* * *

M.A. LITTLE
600 W. 34th St.
Norfolk, VA.
May 28, 1934
Dear Sir:

I see your advertisement in "Hobbies" Magazine and would like to have you quote me your lowest prices on the following coins, if you have them in stock:

1864 "L" on ribbon Indian head cent in Uncirculated condition and also 1866 to 1880 inclusive in Uncirculated Indian head cents. My collection needs some of these dates.

I hope you will give this your attention and hope we can do business in the future.

Yours truly,
M.A. Little

P.S. Also quote on Lafayette-Washington silver commemorative dollar in Uncirculated condition. Thanks.

* * *

K.G. SCHRAM
104 Tygett Street
Ripon, Wisconsin
June 11, 1934
Dear Sir:

I am writing to find out whether or not you have in stock an 1859 dime, reverse of 1860, or if you can advise me where I might be able to purchase said coin.

Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your reply.

If you have it kindly advise me as to the condition of the coin, and at what price you will sell it for.

Thanking you very much, and hoping to hear from you soon, I am,
Yours truly yours,
K.G. Schram

* * *

GRINNELL BROTHERS
Detroit, Mich.
August 4, 1934
My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of August 2nd received and note your inquiry regarding the \$10.00 refunding certificate. In reply beg to advise you that these certificates usually sell for about \$35.00 for Good to \$60.00 for Uncirculated, depending on the condition. I have a duplicate but it is out on approval at this time. This one would grade Fine to Very Fine and I value it at \$50.00. You can readily see that \$100.00 is altogether too high for the certificate unless it should be a No. 1, but doubt if it is. If you are not able to purchase the Refunding note at a satisfactory price and if the one I have out is returned, I will be glad to forward it to you on approval at \$50.00. Will be glad to hear from you further regarding this.

I am herewith enclosing a set of scrip issued by the Starr Piano Co., Richmond, Ind., in \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00 and \$5.00 denominations, also a specimen Department of Public Works, Detroit, Welfare order. I still have several sets of the scrip you sent me and have mailed out several sets but have been successful in making only one exchange recently which was for the scrip which I am herewith enclosing. I will keep the matter in mind and as soon as I am able to make more exchanges will take pleasure in forwarding the same to you.

The weather has been extremely warm here, the temperature officially registering 105, but at the present time it is beautiful and the temperature is O.K. With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

JOSEPH F. SAWICKI
Cleveland, Ohio
September 20, 1934
Dear Sir:

I am in the market for the following coins:

Large U.S. cents 1796 - Liberty cap and fillet head, Very Fine to Extremely Fine; 1808 Extremely Fine all varieties; 1799 Very Good to Fine; 1823 Extremely Fine and 1821 and 1822; 1829 Extremely Fine all varieties; 1841 Uncirculated and 1842 to 1845.

If you have any or all of the above you may send them to me on approval, quoting your best price. I am ANA member No. 3904 and member Western Reserve Numismatic Club of Cleveland. References: [cannot read name], Chas. H. Fisher, Barney Bluestone or Bolender.

Yours truly,
Joseph Sawicki

* * *

V.L. STOVER
1222 Maryland Blvd. S.W.
Canton, Ohio
October 8, 1934
Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of October 6th, I am enclosing my check for \$1.50 for which send me the 1785 Vermontis cent.

If you will furnish me with list of colonial coins you have in fine shape I might find some that I want.

What do you have in 1796 cap cents?

Thanking you for your prompt attention, I am,

Yours very truly,
V.L. Stover

P.S. I am enclosing 18c in stamps for return postage and registering.

* * *

CHARLES C. ROOD
2165 McClellan Ave.
Detroit, Mich.
October 8, 1934
Dear Mr. Nichols:

It has been a long time since I have heard from you or have had anything to offer myself.

Would you be interested in some volumes of "The Nummatist" between the years 1894 and 1911?

These are being offered to me by a California party at \$3.50 per volume delivered, and if you want them I'll be glad to turn them over to you at that price as I think that is high enough and would not want to charge more for them.

I don't believe that he has all the volumes 1894-1911 inclusive, but those volumes he has are complete and if you are interested I'll see what he has and examine them. In your reply, please check over those numbers which you still lack and desire and I can be trying to locate some of them for you so that my reply will be resultant.

Awaiting your reply, I continue to be

Yours most respectfully,
Charles G. Rood

* * *

WALTER P. NICHOLS
212 West Emerson St.
Melrose, Mass.

October 11, 1934

Mr. James G. Macallister
3400 North 5th St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Macallister:

It seems like old times to be writing to you again, I am very sorry that you misunderstood me when we had that little transaction, but as far as I was concerned I meant nothing by it. Just ignorance on my part.

I am in the market for a complete set of the Panama-Pacific coins in the original case as issued. If you have a set will you please let me know the price and condition of same.

I have a good many gold pieces on hand, could you use any? Also have a lot of Vermont, Conn., New Jersey and Mass., cents, in fact about 125 pieces in all. Can you use any of these? Some are in Fine condition and others just Good and of course some not so good. But I do not collect these and have no use for them.

Have a few Federal Reserve notes on Boston, and two on Dallas. Would these interest you? In fact I have a large stock of surplus things that I am sure would interest you. If you were coming on this way I would certainly like to have you see me, if you cared to.

Thanking you for past favors and hoping to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely,

Walter P. Nichols

[The following is a footnote reply from James G. Macallister to Walter Nichols' letter]

Have several sets Pan-Pacifics but no original case. Price \$350, subject to previous sale. Can use all gold coins larger than \$5.00. Don't want any colonial cents or paper money

J.G. Macallister

Ed. Note: The preceding letter from Walter P. Nichols to James G.

Macallister indicates that all is well, and the flap over the Bluestone auction was attributed to ignorance on my part

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of Director of the Mint
Washington, D.C.
October 12, 1934

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your recent letter relative to securing a license to deal in gold.

For your information there is enclosed herewith a copy of the Provisional Regulations issued under the Gold Reserve Act of 1934. Your attention is directed particularly to article III thereof.

There are also enclosed three copies of Form TC-12 for use in making application for a license under article III of said Regulations. When executed, your application (only the original of which must be signed under oath) should be sent in duplicate to the United States Assay Office, 32 Old Slip, New York, New York.

With reference to your personal collection of coins of the United States, you are advised that the Order of the Secretary of the Treasury dated December 28, 1933 as amended and supplemented provides that all gold coin, either foreign or domestic, mutilated or not, except certain coins known to be of special value to collectors of rare and unusual coins, must be turned in for the account of the United States. It follows, therefore, that coins that are in fact of special numismatic value may be withheld, acquired from, or disposed of to collectors under the terms of the Order as amended and supplemented.

Copies of the Order, the Amendment, the Supplement, and the instructions referred to above, are enclosed herewith. In these will be found the follow exception which is made to the class of coins required to be delivered:

Gold coin having recognized special value to collectors of rare and unusual coin (but not including quarter eagles, otherwise known as \$2.50 pieces, unless held, together with rare and unusual coin,

as a part of a collection for historical, scientific or numismatic purposes, containing not more than four quarter eagles of the same date and design, and struck by the same mint).

Gold coin which has a special value to the owner comes within the foreign exception only if the coin has a "recognized special value to the collectors of rare and unusual coin."

The question whether or not any specific coin has such special value is a factual one requiring for its decision special knowledge in the field of numismatics, and is a question which the Treasury Department does not attempt to decide.

Any gold coin owned by you which is not of "recognized special value to collectors of rare and unusual coin" should be paid and delivered to the Treasurer of the United States, a United States Mint or Assay Office, a Federal Reserve Bank, or a member bank of the Federal Reserve System for the account of the United States, as required by the Order of the Secretary of the Treasury dated December 28, 1933, as amended and supplemented.

Your inquiry relative to One Dollar Silver Certificates has been referred to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for further attention.

Very truly yours,

M.M. O'Reilly

Acting Director of the Mint

* * *

HENRY CHAPMAN
333 South Sixteenth Street
Philadelphia, PA

October 13, 1934

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter beg to say we do not have a Pan Pacific set in hand at the moment. We can supply you with a Pan Pacific \$50 octagon shape at \$200.

Yours very truly,
Henry Chapman

* * *

(The following is a list of commemorative coins offered for sale by Joseph Barnett—a reflection of prices in autumn 1934)

REVISED LIST OF COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Bennington 10 pieces 95c, 25 pieces 90c each, 50 pieces 85c each;
Grant 10 pieces 95c, 25 pieces 90c each, 50 pieces 85c each;
Lex-Con. 10 pieces 95c each, 25 pieces 90c each, 50 pieces 80c each;
Sesqui. 10 pieces 95c each, 25 pieces 90c each, 50 pieces 80c each;
Monroe 10 pieces 95c each, 25 pieces 90c each, 50 pieces 85c each;
Huguenot 10 pieces \$1.10 each, 25 pieces \$1.05 each, 50 pieces \$1.00 each;
Lincoln 10 pieces 95c each, 25 pieces 90c each;
California 10 pieces \$1.20 each; 25 pieces \$1.15 each;
Maine 10 pieces \$1.20 each, 25 pieces \$1.10 each;
Oregon Trail 1926 10 pieces \$1.15 each, 25 pieces \$1.10 each;
Oregon Trail "s" 10 pieces \$1.20 each, 25 pieces \$1.15 each;
Pilgrim 10 pieces \$1.15 each, 25 pieces \$1.10 each;
Pilgrim 1921 10 pieces \$1.20 each, 25 pieces \$1.15 each;
Norse-Thick 10 pieces 85c each, 25 pieces 80c each.

SOLD IN ABOVE QUANTITIES ONLY

Alabama Plain 25 pieces \$2.25 each;
Alabama 2x2 25 pieces \$2.75 each;
Vancouver 25 pieces \$3.50 each;
Missouri 2x4 25 pieces \$4.50 each;
Capt. Cook (Hawaii) 25 pieces \$5.50 each;
Lafayette Dollar 25 pieces \$2.75 each;
Isabella Quarter 25 pieces \$1.00 each;
Jefferson Gold Dollar 1903 25 pieces \$4.50 each;
Lewis-Clark Gold Dollar 1904 25 pieces \$7.50 each;
Pan-Pacific Gold Dollar 1915 25 pieces \$3.50 each;
McKinley Gold Dollar 1916 25 pieces \$3.00 each;
McKinley Gold Dollar 1917 25 pieces \$3.50 each;
Grant Gold Dollar 1922 25 pieces \$3.50 each;
Grant (with star) Gold Dollar 25 pieces \$3.75 each;
Sesqui. \$2½ 1926 25 pieces \$5.00 each.

ABOVE CAN BE ORDERED IN ONE OR MORE PIECES

Terms: Cash. Subject to prior sale. Oct. 15/34

ALL IN UNCIRCULATED CONDITION.

Joseph Barnett
2025 Ocean Avenue
Brooklyn New York

* * *

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.

1 West 47th Street
New York, New York
October 18, 1934

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of October 11th, we are sending you under separate cover the complete set of the Pan-Pacific commemorative coins.

The set which we had listed in the Coin Collector's Journal has been sold. However, we have purchased a set since which we can offer you for \$425.00.

We trust it will be entirely satisfactory.

Yours very truly
Scott Stamp & Coin Co.
Coin Department
Leonard Kusterer

* * *

JOSEPH HEYMANN

1781 East 51st Street
Brooklyn, N.Y.

October 18, 1934

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your reply to my letter of the 4th, I can use the following coins for which I enclose my check.

1907-D Quarter Unc. .75c
1853 Half Dollar Unc. \$1.50
1857 Large Cent Unc. \$1.50

(Choice only)

Please quote me from time to time on Uncirculated silver of the branch mints.

Very truly yours,

J. Heymann

Ed. Note: This letter from Joseph Heymann is representative of many letters received from clients during the period. Most transactions were relatively nominal and were for less than \$10 worth of coins, although there were numerous exceptions.

* * *

EMPIRE COIN COMPANY

110 West 42nd Street
New York, New York

October 18, 1934

Dear Sir:

Thank you for yours of the 15th, which has had our careful attention.

With regard to the Pan Pacific set, I have an Uncirculated set in absolutely perfect condition, that can be offered you at \$375.00 for the entire set. This is a very good offer, and would be pleased to hear your pleasure at an early date.

Have made careful check on the list of gold coins you offered for sale, and am willing to purchase the entire lot for a sum of \$644.00. This bid is based upon the lot as an entirety, inasmuch as there are no rare specimens amongst same. However should you not be interested in the bid for the lot, we would be interested in purchasing the \$2.50-\$5.00 and \$10.00-\$20.00 pieces at the following prices:

\$2.50 for \$4.00; \$5.00 for \$8.00; \$10.00 for \$16.00 and \$20.00 for \$32.00 for all or any part of the lot.

Awaiting to hear from you, we remain,

Very truly yours,
Nathan Sanders

Ed. Note: The editor (Q. David Bowers), with James F. Ruddy, conducted a business under the Empire Coin Company name from April 1958 through 1966, not knowing at the time that there was an earlier firm by this same name! Thus, this October 1934 correspondence came as a surprise.

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Office of the Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

With reference to your letter of October 4, inquiring if you can secure a sheet of one dollar silver certificates, series of 1934, you are advised that upon receipt of twelve dollars plus twenty-five cents to cover postage and insurance, a sheet will be sent you.

Respectfully,
W.A. Julian
Treasurer

* * *



OFFICE OF
TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

hhh.d

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1934.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson Street,
Melrose, Massachusetts

Sir:

With reference to your letter of October 4,
inquiring if you can secure a sheet of one dollar
silver certificates, series of 1934, you are advised
that upon receipt of twelve dollars plus twenty-five
cents to cover postage and insurance, a sheet will
be sent you.

Respectfully,

W. A. Julian

Treasurer.

Countersigned,

W. A. Julian
Cashier.

The procedure for ordering uncut sheets of \$1 silver certificates is outlined in this letter of October 1934. Few such sheets were ordered by various collectors at the time, and today all uncut sheets from the 1930s are major rarities.

GEORGE P. COFFIN
Rare Coins for Collections
29 Gage Street
Augusta, Maine

October 24, 1934

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received your letter, and today went to see the lady who owns the gold collection. Unfortunately, I did not see the coins, as they were at the bank. I could see them tomorrow, but I have a list of them, and judging from her way of describing them, think they would run from Very Good to Very Fine condition. Since I talked with you about the matter, the lady has been in correspondence with several people. Scott Stamp & Coin Co. wrote that they "were interested in the coins but could not make an offer without inspecting the coins." A Boston collector, whose name she had promised not to mention, had written her about the same, and she had corresponded with Elmer Sears of Fall River, but had not quoted a price to any of them.

I am enclosing a copy of her list of the gold. I could have bought the lot today for \$450.00, and possibly might have got it for \$400 but she would refuse anything less than that. I think if I had had \$400 with me today, I would have offered it for the coins. My husband was a bank cashier and certainly accumulated a lot of good coins. There are 289 half dollars, a lot of the old dollars before 1804, some of the early quarters and minor coins, but she does not want to sell anything except the gold, as she thinks she will keep the silver etc. for her son who is eleven or twelve years old.

Of course the GEM of this collection is the \$50 gold Wass-Molitor, but the four \$20 pieces including the 1907 with Roman numerals, get up into money value these days. The total face value is around \$240, and the lot would bring nearly \$400 for scrap gold. The Wass-Molitor alone ought to be worth \$400.

If you want to see this collection, I could arrange for an interview, and an examination of the coins, probably Monday or Tuesday of next week would be convenient. If you want to set a day, let me know right away so I can arrange it with her, and have her make the other men wait. I have felt tempted to go ahead and buy the lot, but my funds are so tied up just at present that I would have to hire the money, or make some sacrifices that I do not feel just like at the present time. Still, I may do it for it is too bad for a collection like this to go begging for a customer.

I didn't send any gold to the N.Y. man who wrote for it. I sold some to a collector for a little more than the 50% above face, and have some yet on hand. The most of the store cards went into a lot of 500 that I sold two weeks ago. I sold 500 of them for \$15.00. In the lot you had, there were some medals, foreign etc., so that I discarded 20 or more, and there were some of the others, with some I had on hand, made up the 500, so I got a fair profit on those I had from you.

I have enough of the Maryland halves to last some time, and the 1934 Oregon is going to be a slow seller. Collectors are not very enthusiastic about having an Oregon issued each year.

Let me know right away whether or not you can come to Augusta next week, and what day, so I can arrange the matter and write you about it in time, or wire you if anyone has written her an offer prior to my hearing from you.

This is a case where the owner does not have to sell for any financial reason, but has been told that now would be a good time to sell, and now, having made a start, she is quite anxious to dispose of the gold. From her conversation, I inferred that she may be planning to travel this winter or to get married, although she did not say that she was to do either. Perhaps she might do both. But she did make it plain to me that any deal about the coins would have to be made in the very near future, and that she will not sacrifice the coins.

Look over the enclosed list, and advise me right away.

Yours truly,
George P. Coffin

* * *

GEORGE P. COFFIN
29 Gage Street
Augusta, Maine
October 25, 1934

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have just talked over the telephone with the lady who owns the collection of gold. She could not consider an offer of \$475 for Sears had offered her "considerably more than that," a price that was more than she had ever thought she would be offered.

That leaves the matter out of our reach, and I can blame myself for not looking into it a month ago when I was first told about the collection.

The first information I got was from an antique dealer who has frequently picked up some small lots of coins for me. He told me of seeing the gold, and that there was a Wass-Molitor \$50 gold piece, although he could not tell whether it was a genuine one, or plated. He didn't tell me where the lot was owned, but if I had been interested at that time, I would have gone with him to see the coins. A week or so later an Augusta man told me about the collection of gold, but he did not know anything about the different pieces, but being a friend of the lady, he thought I might be interested. A few days before you were here, I learned that both men had referred to the same collection, and if you and I could have realized just what there was in the lot, we could have gone and looked it over, and probably bought it for a little under \$400.

As I did not go to see her, she got Scott's address from the New York Times, and through a friend got the address of Sears, and a Boston man, and one or two others, and she wrote to all of them. She certainly showed pretty good salesmanship, and has put the collection where it is out of reach of anyone for profit. She says Sears complimented her on the splendid condition of the coins as a whole, and the Wass-Molitor in particular.

Well, I guess I have learned a little lesson from this experience, and if I should have another opportunity to buy a high class collection, I will be more prompt in looking into the matter.

Yours truly,
George P. Coffin

* * *

GUTTAG BROS.
42 Stone Street
New York, New York
November 8, 1934

Dear Sir:

We acknowledge receipt of your check for \$14.00, and in accordance with your letter of November 6th, we have forwarded the following coins to you, via parcel post insured mail:

10 Lexington halves at .70 \$7.00
10 Sesqui halves at .70 \$7.00
Total \$14.00 plus .18 postage - \$14.18
Please remit 18c for postage.

We are interested in the gold coins mentioned by you, and would appreciate your letting us know the prices, dated, etc.

Thanking you, we are,
Yours very truly,
Gutttag Bros.

* * *

JOSEPH SASSON
48 West 18th Street
New York, New York
Nov. 24, 1934
Dear Sir:

I am constantly in the market for gold coins and will pay 50% above face value for same. Whenever you have any to dispose of, please let us hear from you.

Very truly yours,
Joseph Sasson

* * *

(The following is text of a postcard sent by C. Frank Dunn)
Lexington, Kentucky
Nov. 30, 1934

Yours of the 28th received. Enclosing check for \$10.15 for ten coins. Regarding western mints, upon advice of several dealers, I have decided to issue them myself, sometime next year, say 10,000 to each mint on a special premium to permit collectors to complete their collections.

Sincerely,
C. Frank Dunn

Ed. Note: C. Frank Dunn was the distributor for Boone commemorative half dollars and did business from the Phoenix Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky. The present book of excerpts from the Walter P. Nichols archives contains much previously-unpublished information and data concerning the background of various commemorative series.

* * *

(The following is text of a postcard sent by D.B. Lewis)

Ad. on page 829 Dec. Numismatist offers 1909 VDB-Brilliant Proof \$4.00. I'd like one but I think that's too much. Have you any. Let me know.

Yours,
D.B. Lewis
45 Milk Street
Boston, Mass.

* * *

Correspondence from 1935

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Tercenary Commission
State Library, Hartford
[undated 1935]

The Connecticut Commemorative half dollar is being distributed by the Hartford National Bank and Trust Company, Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, and your order should be sent to them.

The price of this coin is \$1.00 each plus 18c for postage on the first coin and 5c for each additional coin.

Connecticut Tercenary Commission

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.
January 4, 1935

Sir:

With reference to your letter of December 22, 1934, there is enclosed a complete list of the coins furnished for collections, which includes all of the coins that were minted in 1934.

Respectfully,
Assistant Treasurer

(The following is a copy of enclosed list sent with above letter)

COMPLETE LIST OF UNCIRCULATED COINS FURNISHED FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

Philadelphia coinage:

1921 Peace design silver dollars
1928 Peace design silver dollars
1934 Peace design silver dollars
1934 halves
1934 quarters
1934 dimes
1934 nickels
1934 cents

Denver coinage:

1921 Morgan type silver dollars
1922 Peace design silver dollars
1926 Peace design silver dollars
1927 Peace design silver dollars
1934 Peace design silver dollars
1934 halves
1934 quarters
1934 dimes
1934 nickels
1934 cents

San Francisco coinage:

1922 Peace design silver dollars
1923 Peace design silver dollars
1924 Peace design silver dollars
1925 Peace design silver dollars
1928 Peace design silver dollars
1930 quarters
1930 cents
1931 dimes
1931 nickels
1934 Peace design silver dollars
1934 halves

NOTE: Silver dollars of 1921 to 1928, inclusive, are tarnished and scratched. Silver dollars of 1934 are scratched. Cents of 1930 are tarnished.

ONLY THE COINS LISTED ABOVE MAY BE SUPPLIED

Applications for any of the available coins should be forwarded direct to the Treasurer of the United States. Such applications should state the purpose for which the coins are desired and should be accompanied by a remittance for the face value of the coins and an amount sufficient to cover the mail charges by first-class mail, either registered or unregistered as desired. Remittances may be made in cash, by postal money order, or by check. Treasury regulations require that checks and drafts be collected before shipments are made.

The Treasurer's office does not maintain a mailing list of the persons who desire to be notified when new coins are minted.

COMMEMORATIVE COINS are not obtainable from any of the Treasury offices; they are sold by the organizations interested in the issues. Further information with regard to commemorative coins may be obtained from the Director of the Mint, Washington, D.C.

PROOF COINS are not available; the manufacturing thereof was discontinued many years ago.

Information concerning the available medals may be obtained from the United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

* * *

GEORGE P. COFFIN
29 Gage Street
Augusta, Maine
Jan. 10, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The only information that I can get about the Moffat and the Mormon gold is that the whole lot was sent to Max Mehl and brought about \$750.00. I think they were owned somewhere between Augusta and Lewiston, but the man who told me about them is very peculiar in business matters, and is very erratic, so I think the best thing would be to let this matter rest. He has sometimes turned up some good coins for me, and may do so again, and I wouldn't want to stir him up in any way, especially if he made something out of that deal.

I am enclosing check for \$32 for the coins named in your letter, 400 large cents, 144 two cent pieces and 114 white cents, by American Express.

I had not known of two-cent pieces bringing eight cents each at auction. Two years ago I bought 300 of them at one of Elder's auctions for five cents each. Shortly afterward a western man offered me 200 at four cents each, which I bought, and they were a nice lot as was the Elder lots. Last year I bid .05½ on a lot that Elder described "Good lot, some Fine." There was only one in the lot that anyone would call Fine, two or three were Good and the others from poor to fair. I wrote to Elder about it and got a reply from a clerk saying, "Mr. Elder says the two cent pieces were a good lot." I have let his sales go by ever since except one where I got some decent colonials quite reasonable. I don't like the way he is now describing the lots, such as "half cents, 1804 to 1850, mixed dates, some Good, 50 pieces." Such a lot might have three or four that were Good, and the others only fair or even poor, but the Elder Co. would say it was as described. Ten or a dozen years ago, I got some nice bargains from Elder and from Hessel's auctions, but the way several of them are now running their auctions, the customer can only get what the catalogue doesn't want.

Send the coins along as soon as possible by Express. If you have any lots of other minor coins, 20c pieces etc., let me know.

Yours truly,
George P. Coffin

* * *

GEORGE P. COFFIN
29 Gage Street
Augusta, Maine
Feb. 24, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received the cents, and am enclosing check, \$12.50 in payment.

I got 200 nice 3c nickels from F.C.C. Boyd for five cents each. It is the best lot I have had. I had a lot of 500 from Mehl for \$25.00 two years ago, and they were nearly all 1865. The lot from Boyd has a lot of different dates. I had a lot of 500 large cents come in the same express that brought the 250 from you, but they will not last long, and if you get a lot any time, I can undoubtedly use them as I have been rather short several times lately with only a few small lots coming in.

I haven't seen anything of much importance lately, but there is always the possibility of something showing up.

I will be glad to see you when you are in Augusta again.

Yours truly,
George P. Coffin

Ed. Note: F.C.C. Boyd, mentioned in the preceding letter, managed the Union News Company, which operated newsstands and lunch counters in railroad terminals, and was a wealthy individual in his own right. During the 1930s he engaged in coin dealing as a sideline. In 1944-1945 his cabinet, billed as "The World's Greatest Collection," was sold at auction by the Numismatic Gallery (Abner Kreisberg and Abe Kosoff).

* * *

KENNETH W. LEE
623 Security Building
Glendale, California
April 13, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Just received The Numismatist for April and find your ad for several commemoratives that I can use. Enclosed check for \$22.10 for 10 Lex-Concords at \$1.05 each and for 10 1921 Pilgrims at \$1.15 each. If you have a sufficient supply to include 5 more of each, and care to send along with the package for approval, I will remit for them at once. Let me know what other commemoratives you might have in lots of five or more that I might be able to use. Have you any good Grants with star? If you have any at all, quote me singly and also any group you might be able to supply. I am also after some commemorative gold, including a \$50.00 round Panama-Pacific.

Have you anything else in good U.S.? I need really Fine or better large U.S. cents back from 1814; Proof and Uncirculated cents 1866-1878; pattern pieces; military decorations; scarce dates in any U.S. series. Glad to know of material you might have from time to time.

Trusting to hear as soon as convenient, I am,
Sincerely yours,
Kenneth W. Lee

* * *

TATHAM STAMP & COIN COMPANY
Springfield, Mass.

April 16, 1935

Dear Sir:

Please send us 25 1920 Pilgrim half-dollars and 10 of the 1921 variety in Uncirculated condition.

We are enclosing check for \$34.00 as per your advertisement in the April Numismatist.

May we please hear from you?

Very truly yours,
H.E. MacIntosh, Mgr.

Ed. Note: Harold E. MacIntosh operated Tatham Stamp & Coin Co., a firm which maintained a large inventory but which dealt primarily with the general public rather than established numismatists. Around 1960 the editor (Q. David Bowers) received a telephone call from Harold MacIntosh, who stated that he had overextended himself in a real estate investment and was in serious need of cash. He stated that the Tatham inventory was worth close to \$1 million but could be obtained for approximately \$200,000 on a cash basis. This seemed too good to be true, and the offer was not investigated. MacIntosh committed suicide shortly thereafter. His coins were privately distributed, mainly by the New Netherlands Coin Company (Charles Wormser and John J. Ford, Jr.) and, when all was said and done, they indeed realized close to the \$1 million mark!

* * *

AT THIS TIME COIN COLLECTING IS ON THE UP-AND-UP

If you contemplate adding to your collection—THIS is a good time to start.

My stock now is rather large as I have been and still am, a liberal buyer of all good coins in ANY quantity—and buy for spot cash whether it is a \$100.00 or \$100,000.00 coin.

My Price List, of course, is free.

As a special offer for this month, I offer

U. S. Gold Dollars—dates of my selection—a set of ten (10) different dates, the lot for \$20.00.

BUT—I will not sell single gold dollars or less than ten, for less than \$2.50 each.

Of course, satisfaction is guaranteed or money refunded, but this offer is for cash orders only.

Everything (almost) in coins and in currency. Write me!

Thirty-four years of proven successful numismatic experience at your service.



Largest Numismatic Establishment in America.

Established 24 Years. Capital \$250,000.00.

Coinage purchased for cash up to any value or sold at Auction on liberal terms and cash advanced without interest.

In 1935 B. Max Mehl advertised the "Largest Numismatic Establishment in America," a claim which few would dispute. In business since the autumn of 1903, Mehl was a grand master among professional numismatists and by 1935 had handled many important rarities and individual collections.

REV. ELIAS RASMUSSEN
3224 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, Minn.
April 18, 1935
Dear Mr. Nichols:

Two weeks ago I brought 150 Uncirculated Pilgrim 1920 and this with the supply I already had has amply supplied me with 1920 Pilgrim.

Would you sell me 25 Lexington-Concord and 25 1921 Pilgrim for \$45.00. If so, send them along and remittance will follow by return mail. Coins are of course Uncirculated.

Do you have same Grants no star or Monroe, Panama-Pacific, Vancouver, Alabama plain and with 2x2, Missouri without star—if so quote best price.

With best wishes for a happy Easter, I am

Sincerely yours,
Elias Rasmussen

Ed. Note: Elias Rasmussen, a minister, was one of the leading dealers in commemoratives during the 1930s. His full-page advertisements appeared in *The Numismatist* and elsewhere. Presumably, he had little time left over to spread the Gospel!

* * *

WALTER P. NICHOLS
212 West Emerson Street
Melrose, Mass.

April 19, 1935
Tatham Stamp & Coin Company
Springfield, Mass.

Mr. H.E. MacIntosh, Mgr.

I have just received your letter of April 16th, enclosing your check for thirty-four dollars, in payment of the commemorative half dollars, and I wish to thank you for this order.

I am unable to furnish you with ten of the 1921 Pilgrim half dollars, having only four of them left, so am sending the four along. I have sold all of the Lexington-Concords and I have fifteen of the 1920 Pilgrims left. This is out of six hundred half dollars, so you see the demand has been very big, and I am sending orders back now.

I am enclosing my check for \$6.90 which is due you on the transaction. If you are interested in taking the rest of the 1920 Pilgrim half dollars, subject to what is sold before I hear from you, I will close them out too for eighty-five cents each. I have just fifteen left at present.

Thanking you for this order, and hoping to hear from you again, I am.

Sincerely,
Walter P. Nichols

P.S. Would you buy fifty 1934 Marylands for fifty dollars, postage paid? I have them on hand now.

* * *

ARKANSAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
923-924 Southern Building
Little Rock, Arkansas

April 23, 1935
Dear Sir:

Responding to your letter of April 11. I regret that I cannot give you the date when the Arkansas centennial half dollars will be received from the mint. I will be pleased to notify you when they are ready for distribution.

Very truly yours,
Robert E. Wait, Chairman Coin Committee
Arkansas Centennial Commission

* * *

CHARLES J. KNABENSCHUH
212 Grafton Ave.
San Francisco, Cal.
May 2, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I guess you thought I was dead on account of not hearing from me for such a long time, but I am still alive.

I have at present 3 strictly Uncirculated California half dollars which you may have (95c each plus postage) if you wish them. These are not turning up as much as in the past but there seems to be quite a few which seen circulation so that's just too bad for both of us.

San Francisco Mint is now coining \$1, 25c, 10c, 5c and pennies. Don't know just how many cents they are going to turn out but if you wish to place an order for me to reserve some for you let me know and I will put them aside for you, or send them as soon as I get them. You do not have to send money or commemoratives you may have to exchange for pennies now. If you order now I will make the price \$2½ a hundred (plus postage). If it turns out to be a small issue, you reap the benefit and if it turns out to be common you still don't lose anything. Does this sound all right to you?

So please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience so I can ship you some pennies if you are interested. The 1935-5 pennies will be selected as issued.

Will be glad to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely,
Charles J. Knabenschuh

P.S. Please mention what you have to trade in commemoratives (if you have some to trade)

* * *

GEORGE P. COFFIN

29 Gage Street
Augusta, Maine

May 8, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Although it probably makes no difference, I think I did not tell you that 40 sets, or 160 of the bills were cut into single bills. I had asked two dealers for an offer on that number, but had not sold them.

I also find there are 371 entire sheets of four, so it makes eleven more than the 400 we talked about, or 411 sets (1644 bills) in all, which I will include for \$80.00.

In case you do not decide to buy them, please hold the price confidential as I shall expect to get more than twice that figure if I break them up into smaller lots or advertise them.

The lowest price I have sold any for was the lot of 50 for \$25.00 to Mr. Morse. Most of the single sets that I sold was at \$1.25, although I sold some at \$2.00 before I made the deal with Morse in which I gave him an option on them at \$50.00 a hundred, and agreed not to cut his prices for a year. The price he agreed to have was \$56.00 a hundred, \$30.00 for fifty and for lots of 12 to 25 the price would be 65 cts. a set, and the retail price, \$1.25 a set.

Before I made the deal with Morse, I wrote to Wismer about the lot, and received a rather "cold" reply. Shortly after I had sold to Morse, and he had quoted his prices as above, I had a letter from Wismer wanting to know what I would take to clean up the lot. I sent a copy of his letter to Morse, and thought there might be a way to dispose of the bills but nothing came of it. I know that Mr. Morse was quoting them in hundred lots when he had none on hand except what he had out of that fifty sets, for he was to work that plan with the expectation that he would handle practically the whole lot. In agreeing not to sell at less than his prices, I had an idea that he might push them by advertising, although perhaps he did not so state, and I expected to dispose of the lot through him. It may be that I might have sold the lot to Wismer if I had not made the deal with Morse, but I am not in any way blaming Mr. Morse, although to a certain extent, I tied my own hands in giving him the option as I did.

I don't know where any other of the Searsport bills came from if there are others. Probably Morse offering them in hundred lots or 400 bills at a time scared some of the dealers, but all that I have known of having any of the bills got them from Morse.

Yours truly,
George P. Coffin

Sesquicentennial



City of Hudson, N.Y.

Third Oldest City in State

1785-1935

Tristram Coffin, General Chairman

It is expected that half dollars in commemoration of the Hudson Sesquicentennial will be ready for distribution sometime in June. The Bill authorizing this issue has been passed by the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, and was signed by the President on May 5, 1935. The Bill calls for an issue not to exceed 10,000 pieces, and the distribution will be made by the Committee, of which the writer is a member.

The coins will be distributed and offered to the public at 1.00 each, the premium to defray the expense of coinage. We have had requests from all parts of the country and can accept only cash, bank drafts or money order in payment for them.

If it is necessary for us to send the coins by mail there will be an extra expense of 13¢ covering the cost of registration, and 3¢ postage for each two coins.

1000
18
15
10.33

Very truly yours,

John T. Evans
FOR THE COMMITTEE.

Address Reply to
JOHN T. EVANS, Executive Committee
c/o The First National Bank and Trust Co.
Hudson, N.Y.

Executive Committee

MAYOR FRANK W. WISE, Hon. Chairman

A. A. ELLIOTT, Vice Chairman

ARTHUR F. McEVY, Secretary

S. MITCHELL RAINEY, Treasurer

Mrs. O. H. Bradley

M. J. Depuan

Pierre Delon

John R. Evans

Dr. H. C. Galster

Henry M. James

Frank L. Kent

William E. Kline

James Marshall

W. Parker Miller

Mrs. Wendover Neffus

Howard E. Ramey

Mark Rosenthal

Louis Rose

Louis Sacco

Mildred V. Sanjour

Montgomery C. Smith

Rev. Charles B. Thompson

Craig Thorne, Jr.

John C. Tracy

J. McClure Wardle

Elmer J. West, Jr.

William Wirtman

The files of Walter P. Nichols contain extensive correspondence from virtually every issuer of commemorative half dollars in the 1930s. The above is simply a notice concerning the Hudson sesquicentennial half dollar scheduled for distribution in June 1935. The marginal notes indicate that Nichols ordered ten pieces, remitting \$10.33 for them.

U. S. Dollars, 1934, S or D Mint, Unc., each	\$2.00
U. S. ½ Dollars, 1929-1934, D, Unc., each	1.00
U. S. ¼ Dollars, 1928-1929-1934, D, Unc., each	.50
U. S. Dimes, 1929-1931-1934, D, Unc., each	.35
U. S. 3c. Nickels, 1925-1934, D, Unc., each	.25
U. S. Cents, 1929-30 S, 1929-30-31-32-33 and 1934, D, Unc., each	.25
U. S. Cents, 1935, D Mint, Br. Unc., 15c. Supply very limited. None at wholesale.	
U. S. Eagle Cents, 1857, Unc., sharp	.75
U. S. Large Cents, 1857, large or small date, Ex. Inv. each \$1.00; v. fine, each	.75
Maryland Tercentenary ½ Dollar, 1934, ob. bust Cecil Calvert, rev. State arms, Unc., bright	1.50
Washington Medal, 1789, obv. bust Washington, rev. Born of the American Armies 1783, President of the U. S. 1789, by I. Manly. Size 48 mm., fine	5.00
Lincoln Medals, no date, obv. bust Lincoln, rev. Broken Column, Flags and Scroll, Unc., bronze, size 19	.35
Same, Lincoln one side, Grant on the other, Unc.	.35
U. S. Cent, 1922, D missing, rev. die break, fine, v. scarce	.35
U. S. Lincoln Cents, San Francisco or Denver Mints, various dates in fine condition:	
1910 S, 25c.; 1911 S or D, each 15c.; 1912 S or D, each 15c.; 1913 S or D, each 25c.; 1914 S or D, each 50c.; 1915-16-17-18 S or D, each 15c.; 1919 S, 25c.; D, 15c.; 1920 S or D, each 15c.; 1921 S, 25c.; 1922 D, 20c.; 1923 S, 25c.; 1924 S, 25c.; D, 25c.; 1925 S or D, each 15c.; 1926 S, 25c.; 1926 D, 1927 S, 1928 S, 1929 S, 1931 S, each 10c.	

Postage, insurance and registration extra on all orders under \$5.00. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money refunded.

FRED GREENCLAY
1626 Washington St., Denver, Colo.

INDIAN HEAD CENTS

(FOR THE SPECULATOR.)

These popular pennies are quickly disappearing from circulation, and rapidly advancing in value. We are offering a few thousand, in order to reduce our stock, at prices far below the current market.

100 assorted, 1864 to 1909	\$2.50
1000 assorted, 1864 to 1909	15.00
5000 assorted, 1864 to 1909	69.00

All Coins Sent Prepaid and Insured! Better put away a few thousand at these prices.

TATHAM COIN CO.,
Springfield, Mass.

RARITIES (IN COINS)

Seldom offered are now for sale. Send for descriptive list including such extremely rare coins as 1804 Dollar, Brasher Doubloon, Kohler Bar and others.

Gibraltar Coin & Stamp Co.
28 S. Wells St., Chicago, Ill.

D. HOLMBERG'S



MYNTHANDEL

Established 1882.

Owner:

Miss Berta Holmberg.

Regeringsgatan 44,

Sweden.

Stockholm,

Riks Telephone 3258.

Telegrams and Cables:

Myntholmberg, Stockholm.

Large Stock of Coins & Medals,
Plate Money, Paper Money,
Tokens.

\$6.50 \$6.50 \$6.50

Six Dollars and Fifty Cents Paid For
Each Uncirculated 1922 U. S. Grant
Commemorative Half Dollar

"WITH STAR"

Sent to me in any lots. I reserve
the right to inspect them first before
remitting.

WILLIAM J. SCHULTZ,

A. N. A. 3666

419 First Natl. Bk. Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

EXCHANGE

Your duplicates with me. I buy, sell
and exchange coins of every descrip-
tion.

L. D. GIBSON

(Dept. 121)

Bannana, North Carolina.

FOR SALE.

United States Coins in all denomi-
nations and condition. Send your
want list. Prices low.

WALTER P. NICHOLS,

212 W. Emerson St., Melrose, Mass.

1934 U. S. Dollar (Pearce), Unc., a beauty. Each	\$1.35
1926 Oregon Trail Comm. Half, S mint, Unc.	1.35
1928 Ore. Half, Unc.	3.00
1932 Ore. Half, Unc.	3.00
1934 Ore. Half, Unc.	2.50
1934 Maryland and Texas Comm. Half, Unc.	1.50

We will pay cash for your duplicates.

ZIM STAMP AND COIN CO.,
Box 1484, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Among the small-space advertisements in the May, 1935 issue of "The Numismatist" was one by Walter P. Nichols, who offered "United States coins in all denominations and conditions." Nichols, who maintained his official residence in Maine but who traveled extensively as a bank examiner and certified public accountant, did business in Melrose, Massachusetts, where his mail was regularly collected.

On the same page the Tatham Coin Company offers Indian Head cents for the "speculator," an unusual term in that era.

(Reproduction of postcard sent by Dunn)

C. FRANK DUNN
Phoenix Hotel
Lexington, Ky
May 25, 1925

The Boone coins "D" and "S" Mints, 5,000 each, LIMITED, now ready.
Price \$1.60 each straight, prepaid. Money order or cashier's check.

* * *

CITY OF HUDSON, N.Y.
Sesquicentennial
May 1935

It is expected that half dollars in commemoration of the Hudson Sesquicentennial will be ready for distribution sometime in June. The Bill authorizing this issue has been passed by the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, and was signed by the President on May 5, 1935. The Bill calls for an issue not to exceed 10,000 pieces, and the distribution will be made by the Committee, of which the writer is a member.

The coins will be distributed and offered to the public at \$1.00 each, the premium to defray the expense of coinage. We have had requests from all parts of the country and can accept only cash, bank drafts or money order in payment for them.

If it is necessary for us to send the coins by mail there will be an extra expense of 18c covering the cost of registration and 3c postage for each two coins.

Very truly yours,
John R. Evans
For the Committee

* * *

CITY OF HUDSON, N.Y.
Sesquicentennial
[About July 1935]

Dear Sir:

The bill authorizing the Hudson commemorative half dollars called for an issue not to exceed 10,000 pieces. The demand was so great that our entire 10,000 has been exhausted and there are no more available except through a few dealers who purchased them. The coins were distributed and offered to the public at \$1.00 each.

Reservations for these coins have been accepted since the first part of May. The coins were received from the mint on June 28th, and on July 2nd the supply was depleted.

Yours very truly,
John R. Evans
For the Committee

* * *

R.H. DUNLAP
Flandreau, South Dakota
July 18, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am sending you today by parcel post insured 300 1925 Uncirculated cents D mint at price per your letter of \$2.50 a hundred, \$7.50 with the postage and insurance 31 cents. You can send me post office money order upon receipt of the same.

Many thanks for your order. Anything further will be at your service.

Yours truly
R.H. Dunlap

* * *

HUBERT W. CARCABA
182 Magnolia Ave.
St. Augustine, Florida
July 25, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your kind letter of the 21st received today. I have been fortunate enough to secure some of the Hudson issue but most of them have already been sold. I can supply you with them at the present for \$2.00 each limited to 100 coins. Have a line on 200 more but haven't as yet received an answer from the holder.

Some of the New York Houses have bought of me at the above price. 100 are being shipped tomorrow to another dealer.

Let me know your wants soon as the present stock won't last long and prices will be higher on any new ones purchased.

I buy lots of coins when the price is low enough for me to make a margin of profit. Sometime when you have duplicates to dispose of send a package along on approval. Mr. White of Newton will no doubt vouch for my honesty etc.

Will be glad to hear from you again.

Very truly yours,
Hubert W. Carcaba

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent by the Arkansas Centennial Commission Box 1300, Little Rock, Ark.)

The Arkansas centennial half dollars are now on sale at \$1.00 each. Orders for the coins should be accompanied by money orders. If remittances are made by check, a sufficient time will be allowed for clearance before orders are filled.

Below is a scale showing the amount of postage, and registration fee which should be included in the order:

- 1 coin 15c registration, 3c postage;
- 2 coins 15c registration, 6c postage;
- 3 coins 15c registration, 6c postage;
- 4 coins 15c registration, 6c postage;
- 5 coins 15c registration, 9c postage;
- 6 coins 18c registration, 9c postage;
- 7 coins 18c registration, 12c postage;
- 8 coins 18c registration, 12c postage;
- 9 coins 18c registration, 15c postage;
- 10 coins 18c registration, 15c postage;
- 11 coins 18c registration, 18c postage;
- 12 coins 18c registration, 18c postage.

* * *

EL PASO INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM
El Paso, Texas
July 30, 1935

Dear Sir:

As per your letter of the 22nd, we are pleased to enter your order for ten (10) of the Old Spanish Trail half dollars. We are getting only 10,000 of these coins, all from one mint and of one date and the cost of ten delivered by insured mail will be \$20.30.

Thanking you for this order, I am

Yours very truly,
L.W. Hofecker
Chairman El Paso Museum Committee
1514 Montana Street

P.S. Expect to receive the coin from the mint the first of September.

* * *

CHARLES J. KNABENSCHUH
212 Grafton Avenue
San Francisco, Cal.

August 2, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Received your air-mail letter today.

Sorry to say Mr. Nichols that I won't be able to send the 1935 cents until Monday or Tuesday, August 5th or 6th.

These pennies have not yet been released and I could only get a few at a time. But I have been definitely promised to be able to get 2 packs on Monday or Tuesday. This is sure. So I will send yours as soon as I get them. You may expect them about 6 or 7 days after this letter.

In the same package I will include a couple of quarter dollars of 1935s. Haven't got the dollars yet. There were no nickels or half dollars made so far this year. I sent you five dimes of 1935s with the California half dollars. Hope you liked them.

As far as the San Diego half dollars are concerned, there seems to be a deep mystery attached to them. All my letters I write to these people give no information as when, where, or how much they are. I finally have Kenneth Lee of Glendale (who is a very good friend of mine) looking around for me. He expects to go to San Diego Sunday. If I get any I will save your some (about 10). I will give them to you at cost (I think \$1.00) plus postage.

Now about the Maines I will take 6 or 8 if they are in perfect shape. Try to make them as reasonable as possible and I will gladly send you Californians when I get them and the price of the Californians will remain at 95c. You know I like to make a little on the Maines. I sell them around here for \$1.65. Now you see Mr. Nichols, I make quite a bit on these when I trade you for commemoratives but when I buy some for cash my profit is small. If you could use more pennies in trade I would gladly take about 15 or 20. Could you use more pennies? If you can I will gladly pay you \$1.50 each for Maines in trade. Anything you say is O.K. with me.

Glad to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely,
Charles J. Knabenschuh

P.S. I am sending a copy of this letter to Melrose so I will be sure to get this letter to you no matter what address you are at. Tokens are \$2.50 a hundred in trade.

* * *

CHARLES J. KNABENSCHUH
212 Grafton Avenue
San Francisco, Cal.

August 17, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Hello and how are you?

Hope the cents arrived O.K. and satisfy. Also quarter dollars. Now Mr. Nichols I want to ask you something: Have you any more 1921 Pilgrims and Lexingtons? If so I'd like to get about a half dozen of each in strictly Uncirculated condition. Please let me know what you can do for me on these. What price for cash. I am enclosing stamps for air-mail reply. You might also give me price on Marylands and 1920 Pilgrims or in fact any commemoratives you have a surplus of.

Did you save me 8 nice Maines? I will pay you the difference in cash over the pennies and 2 quarter dollars. Or so I said before if you can use more cents I will gladly take more Maines.

San Francisco Mint just started coining half dollars (1935) and I will get you 2 or 3 for your collection (face value).

Would appreciate you answering this letter as soon as you can. Glad to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely,
Charles J. Knabenschuh

P.S. If you haven't 6 of each left of 1921 Pilgrims and Lexingtons please let me know how many you have. If you have more let me know also. Also don't forget to let me know about Marylands, 1920 Pilgrims and any others. Thanks. Also Hudsons.

Please answer soon. The San Diego half dollars might come out this month. No definite place to order from as yet or price.

* * *

CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
San Diego, Cal.

August 17, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The San Diego California-Pacific International Exposition commemorative half dollars have been issued and were placed on sale at the exposition grounds on August 12.

The coins were designed by Mr. Robert Aitken of New York City and 250,000 were struck at the San Francisco Mint in San Francisco, California.

These coins are being retailed at \$1.00 each, plus shipping charges.

We have a limited number of these coins available and if you are interested in the purchase of any of them at the price quoted, kindly advise by return mail.

Yours very truly,
Emil Klicka
Treasurer

* * *

THE TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Dallas, Texas

August 31, 1935

Dear Walter:

There is at least one incident to the Pittsburgh meeting which makes it well worth while to me; the meeting and making of a new friend in the person of one W.P. Nichols. There is some instinct that always guides us in making new friends, and from the first moment of being with you I concluded you were our kind of folks, and if you lived in Texas we would call you a "good scout." I am only hoping my impression upon you is one-tenth as favorable.

What I am trying to say, Walter, is that the Pittsburgh meeting from a numismatic standpoint was more or less a flop, as far as I was personally concerned. I did not purchase a coin or a note, with the exception of a short interview with Mr. Clapp, I did not learn anything, numismatically speaking.

But aside from all this the time and expense was fully justified because I not only renewed several very pleasant friendships, but I made at least one new one, or at least I am flattering myself there is a little mutuality to the feeling.

As soon as I clear off my desk I will go down and see what I can find for you in the way of Federal Reserve Bank notes from the Dallas bank. This will be some time next week.

In the meantime, I am looking forward to our proposed meeting in Detroit next year. You can rest assured it will be held in Detroit, as far as my influence and vote goes.

Sincerely,
W.A. Philpott, Jr.
Secretary

Ed. Note: W.A. Philpott, Jr., was a true connoisseur in the field of paper money. His collecting activities extended well into the 1950s, at which time he sold notes from his collection by describing them in detail and advertising them in numismatic publications. The present editor visited with him many different times during that later period.

* * *



ESTABLISHED 1878 INCORPORATED 1907
Grinnell Brothers
 Michigan's Leading Music House

Steinway Pianos

SORREL YOSE, WEBER, GRINNELL BROS.
 DUO-ART REPRODUCING AND PLAYER PIANOS
 SMALL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND EVERYTHING IN THE REALM OF MUSIC
RADIO'S
 ELECTRICAL REFRIGERATORS

1515 1521 WOODWARD AVE.
 Detroit, Mich.



TRADE MARK
 A. A. GRINNELL President
 E. W. GRINNELL V. Pres & Treas
 L. C. GRINNELL V. Pres & Secy
 A. W. GRINNELL V. Pres & Secy
 H. W. GRINNELL V. Pres & Secy
 L. C. GRINNELL Secy-Treas
 E. GRINNELL Asst. Secy

MICHIGAN OHIO ONTARIO
 AND DETROIT BRANCHES

September 14, 1935.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
 Emery Mills, Me.

My Dear Mr. Nichols:-

Your very kind letter of September 12th received together with enclosure of letter from Mr. Philpott, which I have read and am herewith returning. It is a very nice letter and I can assure you that Philpott is a very fine chap. I have known him for a number of years and consider him to be one of my best friends.

Glad you received the chapter pennies and are pleased with them.

Note you will make a trip to Milford as soon as you can conveniently do so after you return to Boston. There is no hurry about this matter but I naturally would like to secure one cut sheet of the National Bank notes and if possible would like to buy three sheets. Will leave the matter in your hands to handle as you think best.

Glad to know you had such an enjoyable time on your return trip from Pittsburgh to Boston.

Also note fully what you say regarding the Convention being held in Detroit next year and trust it will work out satisfactorily in which event am looking forward to both you and Philpott coming on early and spending a few days in Detroit. Will be glad to hear from you any time at your convenience.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Albert A. Grinnell



Many dozens of letters were exchanged with Albert A. Grinnell, the owner of 40 music stores in the Detroit, Michigan area and the leading collector of American paper money at the time. Many of these letters are reprinted in the present volume.

RHODE ISLAND TRICENTENARY JUBILEE

September 16, 1935

Dear Sir:

The Committee is indeed gratified by the interest being displayed in the half dollar memorial coin to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Your inquiry or request concerning this coin has been filed, and any deposit or remittance recorded.

These coins will not be ready for distribution until about the first of the year but all applications are to be honored in order of their receipt, preference being given, after local requirements have been met, to the applications accompanied by deposits. It is proposed that they be sold for \$1.00 each, plus 15c for packing, postage and insurance. This price, however, has not as yet been definitely fixed and remains subject to change.

If for any reason you do not desire your deposit to stand, kindly advise us and the same will be returned.

Yours very truly,
Paul Francis Gleeson
Corresponding Secretary

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Treasurer of the United States

Washington, D.C.

October 11, 1935

Sir:

Replying to your letter of October 9, in which you request to be furnished with an uncut sheet of the new \$1 silver certificates, you are advised that the certificates in question will probably be available within the next thirty days. The number to be distributed in uncut sheets will be limited. However, it is expected that we will be able to accommodate you with one of these sheets but can make no promise as to what numbered sheet you will receive.

Your request will be kept on file and when the certificates are available you will be advised so that you can forward your remittance to cover.

Respectfully,
W. A. Julian
Treasurer

* * *

AMERICAN LEGION TEXAS CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Austin, Texas

October 12, 1935

Dear Friend:

Just as soon as our 1935 coins are available you will be promptly notified.

This is in response to paragraph two of your letter of the 8th., instant. I want you to know I certainly appreciate your splendid communications. Your letter will be called to the attention of the committee that will soon be placed in charge of the distribution. It has all along been a source of concern to me to keep our program on such a plane that we would have the cooperation and friendship of our citizens who are interested in collecting commemoratives. Unfortunately when we secured the passage of our bill in Congress we pledged every cent of the premium of 50c on each coin for the Texas Memorial Museum. This left us without funds with which to publicize our campaign or for any other expenses in connection therewith. To meet this problem, it has been my idea that we secure a very limited number from now on, so that their value would become more apparent even to people who are not collectors. It was further in my mind that we charge \$1.50 for the coins bearing the 1935 date and that would enable us to have a fund with which to do business the rest of the campaign. We are committed to the program of not allowing any of the coins to go into circulation and that we will send all that are unsold back to the mint for remelting. There is a heavy demand for the 1935 coins at \$1.50, and I feel sure that they will all be taken up in one week after we have them from the mints. I have not yet been informed by the mint as to just when the

1935 issue will be ready for us. The growth of the Texas Centennial idea with the development of plans for the exposition at Dallas and other celebrations over the state also have stimulated interest in Texas coins. They are on sale in over 300 Texas banks.

I shall appreciate hearing from you further.

Sincerely,
A. Garland Adair

* * *

AMERICAN LEGION TEXAS CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Austin, Texas

October 24, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I indeed happy am I to have your most recent communication. I thank you for the suggestion that we should not change the prices in after years should \$1.50 be made the basis of distribution of the 1935 coins. It had occurred to me that through the sale of the 30,000 of the coins from the three silver mints that the 50c additional would raise for us a fund of \$15,000, which economically used and wisely expended would prove adequate for future use and needs.

The sale has progressed most marvelously considering the fact that we have never had a dime with which to operate.

I am going to ask a favor; will you please write to Miss Mary M. O'Reilly, Assistant Director U.S. Mint, Washington, D.C. and ask whether or not a new design could be made for commemorative coins after the first design has been made and adopted but I am under the impression that this cannot be done without changing the law. I am fearful of undertaking to change our bill since there is a disposition on the part of Congress not to issue any more commemorative silver pieces. When you get this information, will you please transmit same to me?

We have ordered the dies for the 1935 issue to be sent from Philadelphia to Denver and San Francisco.

Cordially and Gratefully yours,
A. Garland Adair

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Office of Director of the Mint

Washington, D.C.

November 6, 1935

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 2nd. You are correct in your understanding that no change can be made in the design of a coin, once it has been authorized by Congress, without further legislation. However, the coinage laws require that all coins shall bear the date of the calendar year in which they are coined. This, of course, does not constitute a change of design.

Very truly yours,
M.M. O'Reilly
Assistant Director of the Mint

* * *

A. GARLAND ADAIR,
CHAIRMAN, AUSTIN
L. VAN PERKINS,
VICE-CHAIRMAN, CAMERON
CARL NESBITT,
VICE-CHAIRMAN, MINFOLA
R. O. WHITEAKER,
SECRETARY-TREASURER, AUSTIN
WRIGHT PATMAN, TEXARKANA
MATTHEW L. LOVE, BEAUMONT
TOM POLLARD, TYLER
GUY HARBET, GREENVILLE
W. H. THOMSON, DALLAS

"Let's Do It For Texas"
American Legion
TEXAS
Centennial Committee

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN

BEAUFORD JERTER, CORPUS CHRISTI
DRURY H. PHILLIPS, HUNTSVILLE
WALTER E. MONTEITH, HOUSTON
E. J. BLACKERT, VICTORIA
HENRY C. STEIN, LULING
TOM CONNALLY, MARLIN
JULIEN C. HYER, FORT WORTH
W. D. MCPARLANE, GRAHAM
CLAUDE V. BIRKHEAD, SAN ANTONIO
ROBERT LEE BOSSITT, LAREDO
E. E. MURPHY, SAN ANGELO
D. C. HARRIS, MINERAL WELLS
MARVIN D. JONES, AMARILLO

Ex. 1836 Univ. Station

~~CLAUDE V. BIRKHEAD~~ CHAIRMAN

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Oct. 24, 1935.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 West Emerson Street,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Indeed happy am I to have your most recent communication. I thank you for the suggestion that we should not change the prices in after years should \$1.50 be made the basis of distribution of the 1935 coins. It had occurred to me that through the sale of the 30,000 of the coins from the three silver mints that the 50¢ additional would raise for us a fund of \$15,000.00, which, economically used and wisely expended would prove adequate for future use and needs.

The sale has progressed most marvelously considering the fact that we have never had a dime with which to operate.

I am going to ask a favor; will you please write to Miss Mary M. O'Reilly, Assistant Director U. S. Mint, Washington, D. C. and ask whether or not a new design could be made for Commemorative Coins after the first design has been made and adopted but I am under the impression that this cannot be done without changing the law. I am fearful of undertaking to change our bill since there is a disposition on the part of Congress not to issue any more Commemorative silver pieces.. When you get this information, will you please transmit same to me?

We have ordered the dies for the 1935 issue to be sent from Philadelphia to Denver and San Francisco.

Cordially and Gratefully Yours

A. Garland Adair

A. GARLAND ADAIR

GA:DRM

Ans. 1935 Texas coins not yet?

This 1935 letter from A. Garland Adair relates to the distribution of Texas centennial commemorative half dollars. He called upon Walter Nichols for advice and in the above letter thanks him for a suggestion. At the same time he asks him to intercede with the assistant director of the United States Mint.

GEORGE P. COFFIN
29 Gage Street
Augusta, Maine
Nov. 17, 1935
Dear Mr. Nichols:

I had mislaid your letter regarding the 500 large cents. I had received 1000 of them a few days before receiving your letter, and had another lot coming in, 700 good ones, and was very busy with some outside matters, and trying to locate some commemoratives that were reasonable in price, so that my thoughts were diverted, and I overlooked answering your letter.

If you still have the cents, and think they are worth the price, I will take them.

I wonder if Mr. White told you that I bought another lot of the Searsport bills. I made a trip to Belfast, Searsport and vicinity to look at some coins, and expected to locate some of the Belfast bills but found none. Quite by accident I ran across a lot of 140 sheets of Searsports. They had been discovered in tearing down a building which was once owned by an official of the old bank. The man who found them thought he had a fortune, and had just set out about finding a market for them. He had the addresses of Mehl, and the Scotts and was about to write to them. A collector told him the bills were selling at 40c each, \$1.60 a sheet, so his hopes were strong.

I was surprised at his having the bills as I did not suppose there were any more in existence than the lot I had bought. The man had not heard about the lot I had, but through a friend, learned that some Searsports had been advertised. He thought the lot ought to be worth at least a hundred dollars to a dealer, but he would sell them for \$50.00 for a quick sale. Then I thought that he might sell them to someone who would spoil the market for the lot that Mr. White has, or had, so I told him I had \$25.00 with me that I would give him for the lot. After a while he accepted, and I brought the bills home. I didn't buy them for an investment, but thought under the circumstances, that Mr. White might want them, so I offered them to him at just what I paid. He did not care to buy them, so I have them on hand, as I have not offered them to anyone else.

If you could use them, I would let you have them for \$25.00, right away. I have not wanted to retail any of the bills, but will get my money back somehow, before long. Perhaps I made a blunder in getting the bills, but there seemed to be two sides to the question. I have never done much business in paper money, but occasionally have picked up a few items when buying a collection, and frequently have had calls from customers wanting something in that line, so that I have turned over several small lots profitably. I may advertise the Searsports in a small slip to send out in my mail to collectors. They seem to be buying everything in the numismatic line. I didn't get any of the Hudsons, my draft being returned with the information that they were all sold out. I did not remit for any Spanish Trails, but upon inquiring for a wholesale price, was informed that no more were available. The Connecticut were also sold out in short order, but so far as I know, the sale of this issue was legitimate. I have heard that the 1933 and 34 Oregons were coined especially for the Scotts, and that the Oregon Trail Society would not have had them coined otherwise. The Boone and the Texas promoters, with their changes of dates and all the minmarks possible, are apparently hurting the business more than they are helping it. I am not strong for Roosevelt's medal plan, but think that the minimum number in any issue should be large enough and the initial price low enough so that neither the promoters or the dealers could work a profiteering racket.

I have but few commemoratives on hand. Most kinds have been selling pretty well. I have had a lot of inquiries for wholesale lots of Maines. These seem to be one issue that is not controlled by two or three New York dealers. I sold one lot of ten Maines for \$15.00 to a dealer who wouldn't pay me \$11.50 for ten of them last summer.

I notice that Ambrose Brown has been running advertisements in the Maine daily papers, that he wants to buy coins, stamps, U.S. gold coins etc. I have not had many gold coins lately. I got five nice \$10.00 gold pieces from an Augusta man a short time ago, and sold them two or three days afterward. I have had more inquiries for gold coins in the last month than I had for a long time before.

I could use some early cents in About Good condition if not too expensive. If you have some, let me know.

Winter seems to be coming. We are getting our first snowstorm, and the wind is howling. I feel fortunate in having my hobby to take up my attention since I retired from State business. I find enough to do, too much at times, but I enjoy it.

Kindly excuse my apparent lack of attention to your last letter. I will do better next time.

Yours truly,
George P. Coffin

* * *

HUBERT W. CARCABA
182 Magnolia Avenue
St. Augustine, Florida
November 26, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your very nice letter arrived this date. The prompt reply to my letter is appreciated. I can't use the coins at price given but do not think the offer is a bad one. I hope to be able to give you a discount price one of these days. I have one or two each of the Huguenot and California at \$1.75, Hawaii at \$7.50. Sold Mr. Mehl of Texas a few Connecticut last week at \$2.25 each.

For your information, the Commission of Boone coins will have 2,000 each mint 1935 small 1934 for sale this week price \$1.85 each, not over 50 coins to dealers (each coin). This will no doubt be a very good buy. The Boone coins are none too popular but a limitation of less than the number of commemorative collectors will put a high price on them.

Keep me posted on any material you may have to dispose of at times, Very truly yours,
Hubert W. Carcaba

* * *

CONCORD RADIO LABORATORY
Concord, New Hampshire

Nov. 27, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Yours of 23rd at hand and without further ado, I will show my good intentions to do business with you by enclosing check for \$15.00 for coins as per your letter.

Ever since Max Mehl "took to the air" it has been tough buying old collections. I know where there are more than I could lift (old coins) but most owners have sent "hither and yon" for price lists and spent hours and hours with lead pencils trying to figure what they expect to get. A very few have learned (usually by a tough experience with some dealer "out west") of the 200% or more spread between what they will pay and what their price lists quote as value.

I get a few now and then of this sort who will do business. I agree on gold, but I shushed hoarded or turned in and very very little obtainable hereabouts.

However, I surely will advise you if I hear of any collections, especially any gold, as I do not play with that anyway. And I will gladly send you some big cents later if I know about what you want. Anyway, we at least have got started.

With best wishes,

Cordially,
George H. Davis

P.S. Do you happen to have one each 1879-1880 nickel, fair condition or better? I want those two dates.

* * *

TELEPHONE
GRAMERCY 5-6457

F. C. C. BOYD
NUMISMATIST
237 EAST 20TH STREET
NEW YORK

December 2nd, 1935.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson St.,
Melrose, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am in receipt of your letter of November 30th, in reply to mine of the 24th.

As I am all out of the 1908 S Mint Cents in red, uncirculated condition, I am going to take the 300 at your price of 50¢ each. I will have to pass up the 1931 S, as I am afraid I would not be able to sell these at above cost price.

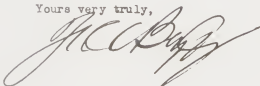
Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$150. for the 1908 S Mint Cents. When sending the Cents, will you please have them shipped to the following address, as it is more convenient for me to receive express or registered shipments at this address:

Mr. F. C. C. Boyd,
c/o The Union News Company,
131 Varick Street,
New York, N. Y.

In regard to the Gold. I will take this \$500. face value of Gold. However, I will not be able to give you 60% over face. If you wish to turn this over to me at 55% above face, I will accept it.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,



fcdb/sk

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11

F. C. C. Boyd owned in 1935 one of the finest cabinets of colonial and American coinage, much of which was sold in 1944 and 1945 by the Numismatic Gallery under the title of "The World's Greatest Collection." Boyd, who headed the Union News Company and who was a successful businessman in his own right, was a coin dealer on the side and ran large advertisements offering pieces for sale.

CONCORD RADIO LABORATORY

77 Warren Street
Concord, N.H.
December 1, 1935

Dear Sir:

Today being my birthday and the first one of those "no longer admitted" (69) I am celebrating by cutting off my phone (no radio repair calls today!) and devoting the whole day to my "babies"—that's my peculiar fun.

I went to the post office yesterday and got your package of coins, for today, as we have no 4th class delivery on Saturday and am pleased to say that I am fully satisfied. They were as represented. In reply to yours of the 27th, I have nothing definite to say reference large cents now, but assure you I will have later. After my Christmas rush is over, will have more time to "line them up" for you. As to the nickels, I want that 1880. Please. I would like to complete my set of these. I have Uncirculated or Fine '5's 66 to 83, except 77, 78, 79, 80. I have Very Good or Fine 'V's' 83 to 1912 D/S except 84-85. I have Very Good or Fine Buffalo including mintmarks 1913 to date, 1913 Type I S mint, 1913 Type II D mint, 1930 S Mint.

I enclose dollar bill to cover the 1880 and perhaps you have one of the others. If not will have a credit balance, ha-ha!

Now to reminisce a bit if it won't bore you too much. I began saving bright new pennies (a few nickels) as a boy back in the '80s'. At that time whenever there was a big city water or sewer laid, or especially the railroad tracks from Tilton, N.H. to Belmont, N.H. (6 miles) and Tilton to Franklin (4 miles) was built about then, always big gangs of Italians were imported for the work and lived in camps by the river. Always excitement for small boy like me. I remember that some of the crooked "straw bosses" used to impose on their utter ignorance and slip them the 1883 nickels without the word CENTS, gold plated for \$5.00 gold pieces. Many went into money belts and to Italy. Also I knew of one murder as a result. I had one of them for years but it was stolen from my desk in college. I carried it much and showed it often and someone got it. I wish I had it back. Well that is enough of that.

Now then, there are 4 or 5 dealers who are trusting (or foolish) enough to regularly send me coins on approval. I buy such a small percentage. I am ashamed, but really do appreciate the courtesy and try to sell some they send (or them) by showing them to other collectors in the vicinity.

The prices on the envelopes has evidently got under the skin of one Mr. Glen Flanders who has a complete set as to dates (some varieties) of U.S. cents 1793 to date and he runs the idea its time to sell.

In his whole lot there are possibly 10 I would care for (at a premium) because I do not deal in coins but he will not sell only as a lot. A clean lot so presume I cannot get the 10 so have given him your address. He and his wife's friend spend every pleasant Sunday "on the road" all over New England and he says he is going to take his "mess" some day and dump them before you and say "how much". However, he is quick for action and not too much patience for looking up streets. You may or may not see him. I thought I would tip you. He might at least rebound so one of us would get the lot of out it. Well good luck I do hope I have not bored you to extinction.

Cordially,
George H. Davis

* * *

F.C.C. BOYD
237 East 20th Street
New York, New York
December 2, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am in receipt of your letter of November 30th, in reply to mine of the 24th.

As I am all out of the 1908-S mint cents in red, Uncirculated condition, I am going to take the 300 at your price of 50c each. I will have to pass up the 1931-S, as I am afraid I would not be able to sell these at above cost price.

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$150 for the 1908-S mint cents. When sending the cents, will you please have them shipped to the

following address, as it is more convenient for me to receive express or registered shipments at this address:

Mr. F.C.C. Boyd, c/o The Union News Company, 132 Varick Street, New York, N.Y.

In regard to the gold, I will take the \$500 face value of gold. However, I will not be able to give you 60% over face. If you wish to turn this over to me at 55% above face, I will accept it.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,
F.C.C. Boyd

* * *

DANIEL BOONE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Lexington, Kentucky
December 9, 1935

Regret to return your remittance herewith.

The new D & S limited issues are so small there will not be enough for one set to each of my regular customers who have the complete collection and need these issues.

G. Frank Dunn
Distributor

You may have one set—return \$3.75. Delivery after Jan. 1.

* * *

ART TRADING COMPANY
One East 59th Street
New York, New York
December 10, 1935

Dear Sir:

We thank you for your letter of December 8, and wish to inform you that the most that we would pay for the coins which you describe is fifty percent (50%) above face value.

As you know, we would be interested in the scarcer U.S. coins; also in foreign gold in the larger denominations. Should you at any time have any such coins which you desire to sell, we would be pleased to hear from you.

We are interested also in U.S. commemorative coins, on which you may send us a list of what you have, and prices asked.

Thanking you for writing, we are,
Yours very truly,
I. Snyderman

Ed. Note: In a recollection to the editor, John J. Ford, Jr. said that the Art Trading Company was one of New York City's most active dealerships during the 1930s. Like many coin dealers of the time, they also sold jewelry, art objects, and other precious items.

* * *

KENNETH W. LEE
623 Security Building
Glendale, California
December 12, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The lot of commemoratives arrived all O.K. and I enclose check for \$82.00 in payment of same. My thanks for sending along.

I happen to have a lot of 200 of the 1908-S and 1909-S Indian Head cents. These just recently came in and I have not had time to assort them. Most are 1908-S but some 1909-S in the lot and the condition will run from Fine to Extremely Fine. If you want these just "as is" I will quote them at \$25.00 per hundred, and you may take 100 or 200 just as you please. If you would like to see them, I will send along for approval. Would not want them to be picked over for a few, or 100 of the best ones taken out at that price but all are nice, clean specimens—I mean by that there are no battered or worn ones, and I sell the most ordinary of these at 35c each on up to 75c for the Uncirculated ones. Let me know if you can use these. It is the only lot I have had for some time.

I also have some 1913-S nickels, all Very Fine, and includes both varieties—with and without mound. Some will pass as Uncirculated. Have about 55 or so, we will say a strong 50 of them, and they can be had as a lot for \$7.00 delivered. As you know, they ask from \$1.00 to \$1.25 for these Uncirculated, and thought perhaps you might be able to use a lot of this nature.

Again thanks for sending the material along and I shall be pleased to hear again soon.

Sincerely yours,
Kenneth W. Lee

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.

December 12, 1935

Sir:

With reference to your letter of October 9th, relative to an uncut sheet of the new one dollar silver certificates, Series of 1935, you are informed that they will be released for issue on December 18th and upon receipt of a remittance of twelve dollars twenty-five cents (\$12.25) a sheet will be sent you, but no promise can be made as to low numbers.

Respectfully,
W.A. Julian
Treasurer

* * *

(Reproduction of hand-written note by C. Frank Dunn to Walter Nichols)

Returning check. D & S oversubscribed. Please reorder the P mints 10-\$10.50 and include \$3.70 for one set D & S for yourself.

C. Frank Dunn

P.S. Confidentially, would advise you to make this \$3.85 to let the set go registered, but I hope very few think of this slow process of handling here!

* * *

TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Austin, Texas

December 18, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with reference to our 1935 Texas commemorative half dollar. The price is \$1.50 each. There are only 10,000 bearing the date 1935 from each of the three mints. Pompeo Copplini, an internationally famed sculptor, is the artist. The Denver and San Francisco coins bear the mintmark. The Philadelphia coins are distinguished by the absence of a mintmark.

We have been operating on a pledge that every dollar raised from the sale of the Texas Commemorative at \$1.00 each should go into the Texas Memorial Museum Building Fund. This has left us without finances with which to carry on. It is our unselfish desire to do something big and worthwhile and of lasting value to the state and to the nation.

You may also procure the Texas Commemorative half dollar bearing the date 1934 at \$1.15 each. We had two hundred five thousand executed; all from Philadelphia.

The 1935 coins are now available and the demand for them is growing rapidly. We urge that you do not delay in placing your order with remittance to cover for as many as you desire.

Very truly yours,
A. Garland Adair, Chairman

* * *

THE TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Austin, Texas

December 31, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Our records show that you are one of our most valuable friends in our very successful campaign with the Texas Centennial half dollar. We wish to thank you for your part.

In checking up, we find that we have left a few of the 1935 coins from all three mints. From that popularity that this coin has received, we feel sure that the demand will increase to great value to coin collectors within a short time.

If you would like to secure at \$1.50 each, additional 1935 Texas Centennial half dollars to meet your future demands, we shall be glad to receive your order as long as our supply lasts.

Again we say thanks to you. Let us hear from you at the very earliest date as to the number of these coins you will need.

Our very best wishes to you for 1936.

Yours very truly,
A. Garland Adair

* * *

BUY NOW—

Potential \$10 and \$20 Coins

For a fraction of their near-future value!



ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL HALF DOLLARS

1935 Denver Mint—only 5500 struck \$2.75
1935 San Francisco Mint—only 5500 struck 2.75
1935 Philadelphia Mint—13,000 struck 2.00

SPECIAL:

The complete set of all three mints for only 7.00

[If you have the Philadelphia and Denver coins for another one, I'll let you have the TWO Rare Denver and San Francisco Coins for only \$5.00 for the TWO.]

OLD SPANISH TRAIL HALF DOLLARS

Commemorating 400th Anniversary—Issued in El Paso, Texas—the "End of the Trail"

1935 Old Spanish Trail Half Dollar—only one issue of 10,000 and greatly over-subscribed—A coin that will surely bring \$10.00 in the very near future. Price, for month of Jan. only \$4.20



[No telling what my price will be after Feb. 1st, but certain not less than \$5.00 each.]

I have a good stock of All Commemorative Coins. Price List Free. Just now, with the purchase of two large collections, I have probably the largest stock of American coins ever assembled by a dealer. And, believe it or not, I am still more anxious to buy than to sell.

WRITE ME.



Largest Numismatic Establishment in America.

Established 30 Years. Capital \$250,000.00.

Collections purchased for cash up to any value or sold at Auction on liberal terms and cash advanced without interest.

B. Max Mehl was very much in the mainstream of the commemorative current. In January 1936 the market was poised on the brink of frenetic activity, and Mehl exhorted his readers to BUY NOW "for a fraction of their near-future value!" A few years later Mehl was to change his tune and offer his commemoratives at discount prices, as did his various competitors.

Correspondence from 1936

THE TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
Austin, Texas

January 2, 1936

TO: Mr. Walter P. Nichols

Our records show that you are one of our valued friends and that you purchased our 1934 Texas Centennial half dollar. We shall be pleased to send you the 1935 coins which are now ready for delivery. The design is the same as in 1934. The price is \$1.50 each. There are only thirty thousand coins—ten thousand from each mint. Pompeo Coppini, an internationally famed sculptor, is the artist who designed the coin. The Denver and San Francisco coins bear the mintmark. The Philadelphia coins are distinguished by the absence of a mintmark.

You may also procure additional Texas commemorative half dollars bearing the date 1934 at \$1.15 each. We had two hundred five thousand executed; all were from Philadelphia.

The proceeds from the distribution of the commemoratives go into the fund for the building of the Texas Memorial Museum on the Campus of the University of Texas.

Welcome to our Centennial in 1936.

Very truly yours,

A. Garland Adair, Chairman

* * *

D.T. ANDERSON

1226 Dominion
Pasadena, Cal.

January 2, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have at hand your very fine letter of December 28th and I wish to thank you for the order of 1,000 1936-S Mint cents at 2c each in a new Uncirculated condition; which you can depend on me to supply.

In regards to the 08-S and 09-S, would you please advise me which price you are willing to pay in an Uncirculated condition.

Please understand they are scarce here just as well and do not come in bunches, but I will endeavor to acquire some for you if your price permits. I want to be honest and fair with you, therefore, I ask you before I purchase, as I specialize only in Lincoln cents.

I mailed some to a dealer in Milwaukee recently and received 50c each, but it is possible you consider this price too high and they were not of the finest at that.

Would you please acknowledge my acceptance of the order, which you can fearlessly depend on.

Yours very cordially,
D.T. Anderson

* * *

THE TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
Austin, Texas

January 3, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your order and enclosure for commemorative coins have been duly received and we hope that by this time you have received same. As our friend in this most worthy cause, I am sure that you will be gratified to

know that we have literally been swamped with orders for our commemoratives. We shall appreciate it if you will let us know by postal card immediately if you have not yet received your Texas coins.

The gracious words of encouragement expressed in communications from numismatists and coin collectors, as well as others throughout the nation, have been cheering to us in our tremendous undertaking. We hope that we will conduct our campaign in such a manner that we will continue to have the good will of all.

I want you to know that I deeply appreciate your friendship and your counsel.

Sincerely yours,
A. Garland Adair, Chairman

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from C. Frank Dunn to Walter Nichols)

PHOENIX HOTEL
Lexington, KY.

January 7, 1936

Yours 5th—I will check up on the 10 new Philadelphia; thought they had gone forward; if not will send at once. The new D & S which I assigned have not gone out yet but I understand orders will begin rolling within the next five days. I would like to attend some of the auctions mentioned, and see some of the collectors who have had "more than one" set of the new D & S as not a single coin has ever yet gone out. Possibly the auction was on the former D & S—it certainly can NOT be on the new.

Yours very truly,
C. Frank Dunn

Ed. Note: C. Frank Dunn refers to the Boone commemorative half dollars for which he was the distributor.

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C.

January 13, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Secretary Morgenthau has asked me to reply to your letter of January 4th, in which you state that the obverse and reverse of the Great Seal of the United States should appear in transposed positions on the back of the new one dollar silver certificate.

There is no provision in the law directing the relative positions of the obverse and reverse of the Seal when both are presented in this form, so the matter became a question of judgment when the design for the new bill was adopted. Historical research indicated that the pyramid and eye design incorporated in the reverse actually was the first design selected by the committee organized in 1776 and was so recommended in the first report, but that in 1781 William Barton recommended that this be transferred to the reverse, the design so recommended being adopted finally in 1782. The pyramidal portion of the design had also been used on a \$50 bill issued in 1778.

Some months in advance of the issuance of the new \$1 note the design was made public. Although it provoked numerous comments, principally favorable, the question of the relative positions of the two sides of the Great Seal was never raised until the arrival of your letter.

I may assure you, however, that your interest is deeply appreciated. While an immediate change in the plates now in use is not anticipated, your viewpoint will be given consideration whenever the question of redesigning the bill comes before the Department. The Secretary asks me to thank you for calling the views of the members of the Boston Numismatic Society to his attention.

Very truly yours,
Assistant to the Secretary

* * *

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Wilmerding, Pennsylvania
January 14, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

As I advised in my last letter, the gold which I was expecting came in last week; however this is the first opportunity I have had to write you. This lot amounts to \$40.00 which is made up as follows:

\$10.00—1904-O Uncirculated
\$10.00—1907 with motto, Extremely Fine
\$10.00—1908 About Uncirculated
\$5.00—1880 Good
\$2.50—1843-O Very Good
\$2.50—1909 Very Good.

These three ten-dollar pieces are the nicest I have had to offer you, although they are more or less common. Upon your reply I shall be glad to forward them for your inspection. If you are still of a mind to exchange something for the 1832 half dollar which I found to be a duplicate, I shall be pleased to hear from you on this matter also.

I am having a great time trying to keep up with the commemorative half dollar race, but expect to come through.

I trust you are enjoying good health and look forward to your reply.

Yours very sincerely,
Earl Coatsworth

Ed. Note: Earl Coatsworth mentions his keeping up with "the commemorative half dollar race." 1936 saw an unprecedented proliferation of new issues, most of which were advertised prominently in collectors' publications.

* * *

THE BROMWELL WIRE GOODS CO.
312 United Bank Bldg., S.E. Cor. Third and Walnut Sts.
Cincinnati, Ohio

January 14, 1936

My dear Mr. Nichols:

I am reliably informed that Mr. C. Frank Dunn of the Phoenix Hotel, Lexington, Ky. will send out Thursday or Friday of this week the D and S mint, 1935 small 1934 Boone Commemorative half dollars.

I understand that he is sending only one set to each dealer. I have a number of collections and am very anxious indeed to secure some additional sets of these two coins (1935-1934 D and S mint, Boone).

If you secure a set you will no doubt want to sell it to someone. If you will wire me collect as soon as you receive it the price you are willing to accept for it, I will appreciate it very much indeed. I am counting on you to cooperate with me by wire on these two coins.

Thanking you for the cooperation I am sure you will give me, I beg to remain,

Very cordially yours,
Thomas C. Melish

Ed. Note: Thomas Melish had his fingers immersed in the commemorative pie and was involved as a distributor of the Cincinnati and Cleveland half dollar issues. Like Horace Grant (who was involved with the Rhode Island issues mentioned later in the present text), he was accused of price shenanigans, particularly with respect to the Cincinnati issue which was released at \$7.75 for a set of three coins but which was quickly "sold out." It happened that a number of favored dealers and friends had supplies on hand, but the price charged was closer to \$50 than the original issue figure.

* * *

ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 17, 1936

Dear Sir:

Our supply of Arkansas commemorative half-dollars for 1935 is exhausted and checks and money orders received are being returned to the senders with regret. We obtained 13,000 coins from the Philadelphia Mint and 5,000 each from the San Francisco and Denver Mints, expecting these to fill all orders received for 1935 coins. We underestimated the demand by several thousands.

An order will be placed with the three mints early in January which should be available before February 1. The design is the same as in 1935. The year of coinage alone is changed. We will be pleased to book orders for the 1936 coins and if you are among those unable to secure our 1935 coins and desire to return the remittance to us, it will be promptly filled upon the receipt of the new coins. The remittance should be made to include \$1.00 for each coin, postage, and registry fee according to the following schedule:

1 coin registration 15c, postage 3c
2 to 4 coins registration 15c, postage 6c
5 coins registration 15c, postage 9c
6 coins registration 18c, postage 9c
7 to 8 coins registration 18c, postage 12c
9 to 10 coins registration 18c, postage 15c,
11 to 12 coins registration 18c, postage 18c,
15 coins registration 18c, postage 24c,
20 coins registration 18c, postage 30c
25 coins registration 20c, postage 39c.

A.W. Parke,
Secretary

* * *

RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENARY JUBILEE

January 22, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In reply to your letter of January 18 our Rhode Island commemorative half dollars will be issued from the three mints. All the coins are selling for the same price, that is \$1.00 each plus 15 cents for postage, insurance and mailing charges for the first coin and 5 cents for each additional coin.

Your remittance of September 9th for \$10.15 will cover the cost of ten Philadelphia coins. The total amount due for thirty coins, divided among the three mints plus the mailing charge, is \$31.60.

We should be glad to receive your additional order. We do not yet know the exact date when the coins will be issued, but as a notice will be sent you at that time, you could probably make arrangements to call for them at the bank and thus save yourself the mailing charges.

Very truly yours,
Rhode Island Tercentenary Jubilee Committee

Ed. Note: The Rhode Island Tercentenary commemorative half dollar issue was to explode into one of the most controversial situations of the year 1936. Horace P. Grant, a Providence (Rhode Island) dealer, took orders for many of the sets, and then returned many of these same orders stating that he could not fill them. He later "acquired additional sets," according to his statement, and offered them at higher prices, much to the anger of those who had their money returned earlier. Abuses of the commemorative distribution system formed the subject for numerous letters to the editor in *The Numismatist* and the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, the two leading coin collecting periodicals at the time.

* * *

HON. J. M. FUTRELL
GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS
HONORARY CHAIRMAN

1836



1936

ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

A DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

DIRECTOR OF CELEBRATION
ALBERT R. ROGERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
H. C. COUCH, CHAIRMAN
J. S. LEIGH, VICE CHAIRMAN
ROBT. E. WAIT, TREASURER
A. W. PARKE, SECRETARY

DR. J. H. REYNOLDS
T. H. BARTON
MRS. E. W. FROST
F. W. SCOTT
MARION WASSON

January 17, 1936.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 West Emerson Street,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Our supply of Arkansas commemorative half-dollars for 1935 is exhausted and checks and money orders received are being returned to the senders with regret. We obtained 13,000 coins from the Philadelphia Mint and 5,500 each from the San Francisco and Denver Mints, expecting these to fill all orders received for 1935 coins. We under estimated the demand by several thousands.

An order will be placed with all three mints early in January which should be available before February 1. The design is the same as in 1935. The year of coinage alone is changed. We will be pleased to book orders for the 1936 coins and if you are among those unable to secure our 1935 coins and desire to return the remittance to us, it will be promptly filled upon the receipt of the new coins. The remittance should be made to include \$1.00 for each coin, postage, and registry fee according to the following schedule:

NO. COINS	REGISTRY FEE	POSTAGE
1	15¢	5¢
2 to 4	15¢	6¢
5	15¢	9¢
6	18¢	9¢
7 or 8	18¢	12¢
9 or 10	18¢	15¢
11 or 12	18¢	18¢
15	18¢	24¢
20	18¢	30¢
25	20¢	39¢

S-P

S-D

S-S

ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

AWP:OR

A. W. Parke,
Secretary.

IN CELEBRATION OF ARKANSAS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD—BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1936

This 1936 notice from the Arkansas Centennial Commission gives details for ordering commemorative half dollars.

COMMEMORATIVES

JANUARY SPECIALS

Norse-American, Thick, \$1.65; Thin, \$7.00.

SPECIALS

PIONEERS

Fort Vancouver	\$7.50
1935 Boone P.	2.50
Oregon S.	1.75

\$11.75

Three for \$10.50.

NORSE-AMERICAN

Thick	\$1.60
Thin	7.00
Both	\$7.85.



SPECIALS

THEY CAME FIRST

Norse, Lief Erickson ..	\$1.60
Sesquit, Washington ..	1.60
Pilgrim	1.50
Three for	\$4.20.

THEY WERE FIRST

Norse, Thin	\$7.00
Fort Vancouver	6.50
Capt. Cook	8.50
Both	\$22.00

All three, \$20.00.

WEST COAST

Calif. D. Jub.	\$2.00
Monroe Doctr.	1.60
San Diego	1.40

\$5.00

Three at \$4.50.

NORTH & SOUTH MEETS

Lincoln, Ill.	\$1.25
Stone Mt. ....	.95

\$2.20

Both for \$1.80.

PRESIDENTS

Sesqui	\$1.60
Monroe	1.60
Illinois	1.25
Grant	1.75

\$6.20

Four for \$5.40.

OREGON TRAIL

1926, P	\$2.00
1926, S	1.75
1928	2.85
1934	2.40

All four \$8.25.

FIGHTERS

Norse, Thick	\$1.60
Minute Man	1.40
Ore, S (Ind.)	1.75

\$4.75

Three \$4.25.

COMMEMORATIVES

1918 Lincoln-Ill. Cent. Unc.	\$1.25
1920 Maine Cent. Unc.	2.25
1920 Pilgrim, Unc.	1.50
1921 Pilgrim, Unc.	1.75
1921 Alabama, Unc.	2.95
1921 Alabama with Cross, Unc.	4.50
1922 Grant, plain, Unc.	1.75
1923 Monroe Doctrine, Unc.	1.60
1924 Huguenot-Walloon, Unc.	2.50
1925 Lexington-Concord, Unc.	1.40
1925 California Diamond J., Unc.	2.00
1925 Stone Mountain, Unc. ....	.95
1926 Oregon Trail, P mint, Unc.	2.00
1926 Oregon Trail, S mint, Unc.	1.75
1928 Oregon Trail, Unc.	2.85
1933 Oregon Trail, Unc.	3.50
1934 Oregon Trail, Unc.	2.40
1927 Bennington-Vermont, Unc.	2.00
1928 Hawaii, Capt. Cook, Unc.	8.50
1925 Sesqui-Cent. Phila. Unc.	1.60
1925 Fort Vancouver, Unc.	2.50
1935 Arkansas, Unc.	2.00
1893 Isabella Quarter, Unc.	2.00
1900 Lafayette Dollar	4.15
1934 Maryland, Unc.	1.45
1934 Kentucky, D. Boone, Unc.	2.50
1935 Kentucky, Dan. Boone, Unc.	2.50
1935 Kentucky S Mint, Unc.	2.75
1935 Kentucky D Mint, Unc.	2.75
1934 Texas, Unc.	3.00
1935 Connecticut, Unc.	4.00
1935 San Diego, Cal. Unc.	1.40
1935 Hudson, N. Y., Unc.	2.00
1935 El Paso, Tex.	6.50

Happy New Year to You All.

Postage extra for orders under \$5.00

Prices good for January while present stock lasts

Want to Buy for cash in quantities
Maine, Pilgrim 1921, Ala., both Mo.
Grant, Huguenots, Oregon, Hawaii,
Conn., Hudson, all uncirculated.

DIXIE

Old Sp. Trail	\$5.50
Texas	1.40
Kentucky, S	2.50

Three for \$9.40

Three for \$9.00.

STATES MEMORIAL

Illinois	\$1.25
Arkansas	2.00
Maryland	1.15
Texas	1.40

\$6.10

The four \$5.60.

STATES CELEBRATIONS

Bennington	\$2.00
Alabama 2x2	4.50
Connecticut	3.00
Maine	2.25

\$11.75

Four at \$11.25.

THREE ARISTOCRATS

Bennington	\$2.00
1921 Pilgrim	1.75
Connecticut	3.00

\$6.75

Three at \$6.25.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS

Isabella	\$2.00
Lafayette	\$1 4.15

Both \$5.90.

Both \$6.15

ELIAS RASMUSSEN

4937 Russell Ave., So., Minneapolis, Minn.

Elias Rasmussen, a minister by profession, was one of the most active dealers in commemoratives during the 1930s. Month after month he offered page-size advertisements of various commemoratives for sale, often dividing them into innovative groups (such as "Three Aristocrats," "Dixie," etc., as shown above).

DESCRIPTION OF HUDSON HALF DOLLAR.

Antihudson, New York, December 15, 1935.

In looking over the index of the 1935 Numismatists it was noted that no description of the Hudson half dollar had been given, and I hasten to fill this gap in numismatic literature. So far as known, this piece is the first ever dedicated to the coin collector. Everything about it shows the purpose for which it was issued.

Behold, on the obverse, the ship of Hudson homeward bound in all its triumph. Is it not laden, oh, my friends, with the catch of a most profitable expedition to the Sea of Suckers, where the proverbial one is born every minute? Obviously enough, the ship is none other than the "Half Moon," but why it was so christened has never been revealed until now. It seems that the success of such voyages is so dependent upon the influence of the moon that they are conducted entirely under her soothing rays. Indeed, great importance is even attached to the proper naming of the ship to more speedily reduce the suckers to the state of subjugation required to land them. What more convincing proof need there be than the idiotic grinning of Luna on the coin itself?

(Please insert cuts of obverse and reverse of coin.)

(Editor's Note—The editor has no cut of the Hudson half dollar. And he has no Hudson half dollar from which to make a cut. In the circumstances, he reserved the right to decline to purchase one at the price asked.)

But, ah! the reverse—can it really be the devil himself? Be still, my troubled heart, 'tis only the captain of the great Half Moon jauntily sporting his workaday clothes! Caught, too, in the very act of administering the coup-de-grace to the poor sucker that was snared into his trap. Another unsuspecting sucker may be seen nearby awaiting his turn and blowing his trumpet in anticipation of what he believes to be his great moment. Above may be seen the motto we all hope may come to pass. May the distributors of the coin reap both the honor and the reward (et decus et pretium) demanded by their righteous action (recti).

A. SHORNLAB.

THE OWNER OF TWO GREAT U. S. RARITIES.

As a member of the American Numismatic Association I am very much interested in your edition of April last, containing a letter from Raymond L. Caldwell regarding the 1798 half eagle with small eagle reverse. My interest arises from the fact that I happen to be the owner of the Earle specimen, which I purchased from the Ellsworth collection eleven years ago, and which is rated by Wayte Raymond as being in very fine condition. This will locate the Earle specimen and bring the record up to date.

You may be also interested to know that I am the owner of the Stickney 1804 dollar, which I purchased at the same time from the Ellsworth collection.

With an expression of appreciation on my part of your most interesting organization, I am, very truly yours,

WM. C. ATWATER.

1 Broadway, New York City.

KING GEORGE'S DEATH MEANS NEW COINS FOR ENGLAND.

As a result of the death of King George V, new coinage of the realm must be struck, new stamps and prayer-books must be printed, and initials on all Government buildings must be changed.

After an order in council has been issued for new coinage, instructions are sent to the royal mint for striking the coins. A model of the new King's head will be made as it is to appear on the new money and will be submitted for his Majesty's approval.

The coins of the British colonies which bear the head of the King will be similarly affected, as well as those of the Dominions.

According to custom, the head of the new King will face right, being the reverse of the head of his father, King George V.

"A. Shornlamb" wrote to the "The Numismatist" and gave his opinion of the 1935 Hudson commemorative half dollar, one of the issues which was "sold out" before numerous people desiring examples were able to acquire them at the issue price. The editor of "The Numismatist" seemed to share the sentiments of his correspondent.

Another letter, not on the subject of commemoratives but pertaining to the 1798 half eagle gold rarity, was penned by William C. Atwater, whose collection was to be sold at auction by B. Max Mehl a decade later.

WINDHAM ELECTRIC CO.

73 Church Street
Williamantic, Conn.

January 22, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Glad to hear from you. I am just as interested in collecting as ever but have not been doing much recently for several reasons. One is that I have been short of funds to buy coins with and then I rather lost my enthusiasm on commemorative coins as just as I had my collection complete they begin to bring out new numbers so fast that I cannot keep track of them. And, instead of being new designs they simply use the same old design and just put on a small D or S as it may be and then collectors scramble after them again to add to their collection. I much prefer to see coins brought out of a new design same as Old Spanish Trail, Conn., or Providence and thus add to the attractiveness of a collection than to have a number of same design as they are doing. I intend to pick up these extra numbers as I have a chance from time to time but do not wish to pay top prices if I can help it. I have the Scott album filled except two and that means thirty-eight coins. I also have the Kentucky 1935 with 1934 on and have no others except a few duplicates. That means I am short the Texas 1935—Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco, also the Arkansas 1935-S and D and will need the 1936 Arkansas Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco when they are available. In commemorative gold I am short Louisiana Purchase, Jefferson 1903 dollar and both Lewis & Clark to make my collection complete. My son is interested in small pennies and has a fair collection of most of them and I think I will obtain these when I have an opportunity and would like to have them in Uncirculated condition.

If you wish to quote me price on these commemorative half dollars I would be interested or the three gold pieces that I need. Maybe I will get a little money ahead so I can buy them in the near future. If prices are satisfactory I might have you hold them for me and give you a deposit and send you a little every week until they are paid for.

Hope to hear from you at your convenience, and remain,

Yours sincerely,
M. Leslie Nichols

* * *

GEORGE H. DAVIS

77 Warren St.
Concord, N.H.

January 23, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your nice letter of 20th. In reply would say that I am disgustingly well and hearty for an old greaser, but down hearted re business conditions, rotten, money is, well, no such thing as a cash sale. This wide spread system of nothing down and \$1.00 a week is sealing the doom of the "litle" fellow in business.

But one good outcome of this depression (to me) has been the driving out hoarded money and selling of collections to raise money and dealers anxious to get cash for old coins usually held for the "sucker" price. I have made some very pleasant and mutually beneficial contacts in the past two years with dealers I could never get a rise out of before and besides more and more are willing to send stuff on approval which in the final analysis is the only really satisfactory way to buy.

I have a recent one in California Stamp Co., Los Angeles, California, a far cry but they have sent me two nice lots.

Mr. MacIntosh (Tatham) sends me a lot every week. He now accepts some coins in exchange using "Scotts" price list as a guide. Also have one correspondent in New Jersey who does the same. It works out as long as I play fair and give just a little more than I get and ties up less money for me.

I am not at all interested in the "souvenir" half dollars. Now it has developed into a "racket," same as stamps. I picked up 2 small lots here lately (from administrators) among which was a curio to me, perhaps not to you, not listed in any of my "books" on coins. An 1838 half, large size, lettered edge, bonnet head to left. Exactly like 1836. Same weight and rings true. Not a sign of difference only has a peculiar color, faintly yellowish or brassy. It is worn but nearly every letter shows, WHAT IS IT?

Local dealer (expert?) F.B. Clough says "counterfeit." He always does

if he wants it. But bankers say it is not, at least by weight and feel. I say a pattern piece.

Always glad to hear from you. What have you new of interest to me?

Cordially,
George H. Davis

* * *

WESTCHESTER COUNTY COIN CLUB

New York, New York

January 31, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In reply to yours of the 26th instant, until the bill is signed by the President, there will be no action taken regarding the New Rochelle commemorative half dollar; these coins are to be issued in 1938, in conjunction with the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of New Rochelle. I would suggest that you write us around December 1937.

Yours very truly,
Julius Guttig, Chairman
New Rochelle Commemorative Committee

* * *

CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

San Diego, Cal.

February 5, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 26th with reference to the issuance of coins in commemoration of the 1936 California Pacific International Exposition.

May we advise that a bill is now in Congress relative to the issuance of new coins in commemoration of the 1936 Exposition and asking that they be struck at the San Francisco, Denver and Philadelphia mints. However, details are not yet available, we have filed your letter and will let you know as soon as we learn definitely.

Yours very truly,
Emil Klicka
Treasurer

* * *

DAVID ANDERSON
1225 Dominion
Padadena, Cal.
February 25, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It was not more than two weeks before I made your acquaintance, that I sold a number of nice Uncirculated 1908-S and 1909-S to a Milwaukee dealer. I received 40 and 50c respectively.

I am gradually disposing of my Indian head cents, as I am so interested in the acquisition of Lincolns. At one time I had five complete sets of Proofs from 1856 to 1909. I sold Kenneth Lee one of the most beautiful collections of pattern cents which comprised most of the rarities. I was actually afraid to show them to friends or collectors and I decided to sell every one.

Now in regards to the 1908-S and 1909-S, I have tried hard to land these for you at a fair price, but am sincere in stating that the dealers will not recognize my offer. I do not want or expect a cent of profit on these, as I want to turn these over to you, at your given prices.

I do not blame you for accepting only Uncirculated cents, as there is only pleasure in collecting and selling refined specimens.

My collection of Lincolns is quite complete in stock, with the exception of 12-D, 13-D, 14-D and 24-D. Can you help me out on these particular dates. At anytime you get the opportunity to land these at fair prices, would you please remember me.

I am certainly proud of my "S" mints and wish I was as well supplied with the "D" mints. I wish you would give me a definite price to offer for 1908-S and 1909-S in a satisfactory Uncirculated condition, in the event the opportunity arises again.

Could you spare 15-31 P and 15-33 P for 125-1935 S.

Assuring you of my most earnest cooperation at all times, I am,
Yours very cordially,
David T. Anderson

* * *

HOTEL ROOSEVELT
Madison Ave. 45th St.
New York, N.Y.

March 4, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It has just come to my attention that you and Mrs. Nichols spent a very unpleasant night in The Roosevelt on March 1st and I am really at a loss for words in which to express my chagrin and embarrassment.

When our house officers are unable to quiet guests they should certainly expel them from the premises and you may rest assured that the officers handling this particular matter have been severely reprimanded.

I want you to know that The Roosevelt does not habitually have occurrences of this kind and feel confident you will never run into such a situation again.

Won't you forgive us in this one instance and give us another opportunity of serving you? I should consider it a pleasure to care for your wants personally, if you will advise me in advance of your next visit.

Very truly yours,
B.G. Hines, Managing Director

Ed. Note. The preceding letter is included just to show Mr. Nichols "human side" — here and there in his correspondence files are letters to hotels, Masonic lodges, and the like on various matters, most of them more pleasant than the subject of the Hotel Roosevelt correspondence here quoted.

* * *

GEORGE P. COFFIN
29 Cage St.
August, Maine
March 28, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Have you anything in large cents such as I have had from you in the past? One man who has supplied me with a great many such coins has slumped on account of sickness, and my stock is running rather low just now.

I suppose you have had a good stock of the "rare" commemoratives that have been made to order in the past few months. According to what I hear, the Rhode Islands are going to make a record, and incidentally, a small fortune for Horace Grant.

It has seemed to me that the way the commemoratives have been manipulated would discourage collectors, but they seem to be going strong for all the new inventions in that line.

Let me know if you have any of the large cents, or you may send them along, with bill.

Yours truly,
George P. Coffin

* * *

RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENARY JUBILEE

March 31, 1936

We are enclosing herewith a check from the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Tercentenary Committee, Inc. representing the difference between the amount you sent to us at the time you requested a supply of the Tercentenary half dollars and \$3.25, the cost of one set.

We regret exceedingly that we are unable to send the total number of coins that you requested. The unprecedented demand for those coins compels us to limit the number which can be sent to any one person.

Very sincerely yours,
Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Tercentenary Committee

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent by C. Frank Dunn to Walter Nichols)

Phoenix Hotel
Lexington, Kentucky
April 1, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I will hold your \$21.50 check to see if we have any D&S left [Boone half dollars], am working day and night filling another nation-wide flood of orders that sold out the D&S 1936 by March 14, and will be another full week on it. Will do my very best to fill your order then.

With best regards, I am,

Yours very truly,
C. Frank Dunn

* * *

RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENARY JUBILEE

April 6, 1936

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of April 5 concerning the filling of your order for Rhode Island Tercentenary half dollars.

I regret exceedingly that you have not as yet received your coins, but hasten to assure you that you should receive them within a very short time.

We have turned over our mailing schedule to our distributing agent, The Rhode Island Hospital National Bank, and they are mailing the orders out as fast as their clerical help permits.

Very truly yours,
Rhode Island Tercentenary Jubilee Committee

Reproduction of postcard sent by C. Frank Dunn to Walter Nichols)
Phoenix Hotel
Lexington, Kentucky
April 7, 1936

Yours 4th--still working night and day getting out the load of orders [for Boone halves]--will finish up Saturday. Monday we will take what's left if any and dole 'em out to our regular customers whose orders got in after March 14.

With best regards,
Yours very truly,
C. Frank Dunn

* * *

THE TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Dallas, Texas
April 8, 1936
Dear Walter:

I was not a bit disturbed about you or the small amount of money you owed me. Just let the matter rest until I see you at the A.N.A. in August. By that time you may be able to pick up an old bill or two such as you have been looking for. If you do not, you may hand me the \$15 at that time.

The dates for the Minneapolis meeting have not been set, but they will be the latter part of August. Am planning to stop by with Mr. Grinnell and am hoping you will be there too, and we will have that game of golf.

Glad to know you have been kept busy and that you and Mrs. Nichols are still well and happy. I have been very busy myself. Sometimes it seems I need 36 hours a day.

These commemorative half dollars are going to ruin numismatics in this country, if we do not mind. I am thoroughly disgusted with the racket and several times I have determined not to buy any more.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
W.A. Philbrick, Jr.,
Secretary

* * *

(Reproduction of newspaper article April 1936)

R.I. Tercentenary Half Dollars
Sold Out in Six Hours at \$1 Each

Most of 45,000 Disposed of Before Noon in 30 Banks
Throughout State.—Other 5000 Held Out to Fill
Advance Orders.—Officials Astonished

Rhode Islanders flocked to banks in such numbers yesterday to buy souvenir Tercentenary half dollars—at \$1 apiece—that the entire available supply was exhausted within six hours, a preliminary checkup revealed last night.

Approximately 45,000 of the Congressionally authorized issue of 50,000 coins were disposed of in 30 banks throughout the State, most of them being sold before noon, according to Arthur L. Philbrick, who, as treasurer of the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Tercentenary Committee, Inc., was in charge of the distribution.

The remainder of the issue, reserved to care for orders placed in advance, will not be placed on sale generally, Mr. Philbrick said. In the absence of complete records from banks outside Providence, Mr. Philbrick could not say last night whether any coins remained unsold in any community where the demand may not have been as great as in other sections of the State.

The Rhode Island Hospital National Bank, however, acting as the depository and banking distributor of the coins, had exhausted its supply and was unable to fill repeat orders from the other banks at noon yesterday Mr. Philbrick reported.

From the numismatic standpoint the Rhode Island half dollars are of exceptional value in that they probably will be the last special coins struck off in commemoration of any local or State observance. Following the passage of the bill, sponsored by United States Senator Jesse H. Metcalf,

authorizing the minting of the Rhode Island half dollars, Congress adopted a law prohibiting the minting of any more coins of this nature.

Expressing astonishment that virtually the entire issue had been sold within a few hours, when it had been estimated that three months would be required to sell the 50,000 coins. Mr. Philbrick declared the sale one of the most encouraging features of the Tercentenary observance thus far, indicating, he said, "a far greater interest in the celebration than anyone had suspected."

"We certainly didn't expect to see the whole issue snapped up in a few hours," said Mr. Philbrick, "particularly inasmuch as Connecticut, with a population twice that of Rhode Island, had 20,000 coins minted last year and after two months so many remained unsold that they were turned back to the Treasury and melted down for other coinage uses."

Indications that the new Rhode Island half dollars will be selling at a premium in the very near future was seen by Mr. Philbrick in the fact that a Kansas collector advertised a month ago that the price of the pieces would be \$4 each. It is not considered likely, however, Mr. Philbrick said, that the few thousand reserved coins will be sold at more than the established price of \$1, although this point has not been decided.

"We placed the coins on general sale within Rhode Island before we filled mail orders," said Mr. Philbrick, "in order that native Rhode Islanders would have an opportunity to get them. Now we expect we will have to scale down advance orders we have received and accepted payment for. Persons who ordered and forwarded remittances for, six, eight or 10 coins will be given a smaller number, and the balance of their money returned, because we want to spread the distribution of the coins as widely as possible."

Before the coins went on sale yesterday morning, it had been planned to allow any one person to purchase any number of them up to 10. On Wednesday evening, however, it was apparent that the demand would be great, and the maximum was cut to three, and many banks, on their own initiative, limited the sale to but one coin to any one person.

The Rhode Island Hospital National Bank reserved only 680 coins for general sale in its own downtown rooms, where 20 people were waiting to purchase the pieces before the bank opened. The first purchaser was Ethelbert A. Rusden, 522 Angell Street.

Less than an hour after the banks opened, the Hospital National Bank received calls for additional shipments. A Woonsocket bank wanted 100 more coins, and did not get them.

At the Industrial Trust Company, which had received 1600 advance orders, an allotment of 4800 coins was disposed of in a little more than three hours. Other banks reported similar experiences with eager buyers. It had been expected before the sale opened that three months would be required to sell all the coins.

Collectors and others sought the coins, and many, before the one-to-a-customer rule was enforced, bought them in sets of three, one of each mintage. Twenty thousand of the coins were minted at Philadelphia, and 15,000 each at Denver and San Francisco, coins from the last two mints being distinguished by a tiny D or S on the half dollars. Coins from the Philadelphia mint have no distinguishing letter.

Mr. Philbrick last night expressed appreciation of the co-operation shown the Tercentenary group by Rhode Island banks in distributing the coins.

* * *

Sold Out In Six Hours

Is the History-Making Record of the

Rhode Island

Tercentenary Half Dollar

**My Prediction That This Would Be a One-Day Sale
Has Come True.**

To the hundreds of Numismatists throughout the United States, Canada and Philippines, who favored me with their orders, I wish to express my thanks. I have kept you posted as to the progress of this issue to the best of my ability, and have spared no expense to fill your orders promptly.

The many letters of commendation I have received prove that my efforts have not been in vain.

Total number of orders received by me were nearly 11,500. Number of coins obtained from the Tercentenary Committee approximately 6750. This made it necessary for me to obtain about 5000 coins from outside sources, at a premium of from five to fifteen cents per coin. I am proud to state that all retail orders received prior to March 6 have been filled.

I AM OFFERING

75 SETS OF THESE COINS AT \$7.50 PER SET.

SINGLES AT \$2.75 EACH.

(Prices subject to change without notice.)

THE NATIONAL ALBUM FOR COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLARS

Now a standard pages 5 1/2 x 8 inches, each holding 10 coins. Five pages and cover with binder. Capacity 50 coins.

Price \$4.00

In addition with the Commemorative Half Dollar Album, we have the National for Special United States coins from 1856 to date, including gold dollars. Five pages, each page holding 28 coins.

Price, Complete With Binder \$4.00

Forwarding charges extra.

Will Pay \$65.00 per Set 1935 small 34 S & D Mint Kentucky.

GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP

Horace M. Grant, Prop.

A. N. A. 2239, C. C. of R. I. #1.

109 Empire Street, Providence, R. I.

Of all of the commemorative issues of 1936, none rankled collectors more than did the offering of Rhode Island Tercentenary set of three pieces. There was widespread feeling that all sorts of hankypank went on, with banks and favored insiders keeping the precious half dollars from the public in order to offer them at a higher price to collectors later. Horace M. Grant, a leading Rhode Island dealer, was very much in the thick of things and came in for his share of condemnation, although in fairness it should be noted that a number of collectors reported having satisfactory experiences.

"HERALDING RHODE ISLAND'S FOURTH CENTURY"

RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENARY JUBILEE

RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE, INC.

IRA LLOYD LETTS, Chairman

HOSPITAL TRUST BUILDING, PROVIDENCE
GAspee 0272

April 8, 1936.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols
212 West Emerson Street
Melrose, Massachusetts

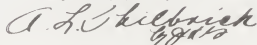
Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you very much indeed for your courteous letter of April 5 relative to the Rhode Island Tercentenary half dollars.

These coins were placed on sale in thirty Rhode Island banks in order to provide a wide distribution. After this demand was satisfied, the Committee intended to comply with as many requests as possible outside of the State. However, almost the entire issue was sold in forty-eight hours, hence we had to reduce the number to be sent to any one person outside of the State, which explains the mailing to you of only one set of these coins.

We regret very much indeed that we could not send you all the coins you desired. You may be able to secure a few more, but we cannot promise anything.

Very truly yours,



A. L. Philbrick, Treasurer

ALP:G/MEC

1636



1936

A lot of tomfoolery attended the distribution of the Rhode Island commemorative half dollars, and letters to the editor of "The Numismatist," correspondence to Walter P. Nichols, and other sources indicate that, to say the least, the entire affair was mismanaged. Indeed, the Rhode Island half dollars were usually cited as the way NOT to distribute a commemorative issue, and these pieces gave the entire commemorative concept a bad name.

RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENARY JUBILEE

April 8, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you very much indeed for your courteous letter of April 5, relative to the Rhode Island Tercentenary half dollars.

These coins were placed on sale in thirty Rhode Island banks in order to provide a wide distribution. After this demand was satisfied, the Committee intended to comply with as many requests as possible outside of the State. However, almost the entire issue was sold in forty-eight hours, hence we had to reduce the number to be sent to any one person outside of the State, which explains the mailing to you of only one set of these coins.

We regret very much indeed that we could not send you all the coins you desired. You may be able to secure a few more, but we cannot promise anything.

Very truly yours,
A.L. Philbrick, Treasurer

* * *

TATHAM STAMP & COIN COMPANY Springfield, Mass.

April 11, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We need ready cash immediately and will sacrifice two sets rare 35-34 S and D Boones for only \$140.

If you care for only one set our price is \$75.

This offer is subject to immediate acceptance and prior sale. If interested, we suggest you telegraph your acceptance.

Very truly yours,
H.E. MacIntosh, Mgr.

* * *

D.T. ANDERSON
1226 Dominion Ave.
Pasadena, Cal.

April 15, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I felt might good this a.m. when the mailman handed me your package. The 1914-D was very welcomed and I could use at least five more. I need about six of the 24-D fairly priced.

Gosh, you must do a land of a business to ask for them by the 1,000 at a clip. Well, I sure do enjoy your cooperation and you will find me out to be a pretty good chap. At least that is what the both Lee's say about me in Glendale. I am up to their office with gold coins about three times a week. In this manner I get access to their stock of Lincolns which I specialize in only

I went to the bank this a.m. to get more Lincolns and was able to get only 350 more, so I decided to send you the 400 I had on hand. Only 38 million were minted, which is not a superfluous amount. This is a true fact that I sold Mr. B. Max Mehl, the big gun, 300 at 31¢ each. So I think I am giving you an edge over him. He sure buys in big quantities also. If you should decide to want another shipment, let me know at once (35-S).

I was forced to pay for 31-P 15¢ each, and 33-P 9¢ each. Now you have an idea what I have to pay for what I need. But I am always willing to sell my merchandise at fair prices and it is only in large quantities that make this possible.

Mr. Johnson failed to bring home the 35-S mints due to sickness to one of his parties. Mrs. Anderson and myself are driving up to Frisco as soon as we can get away. You will be treated just as I previously stated.

I need: 15-D, 16-D, 17-D, 18-D, 29-D, 13-D, 12-D, 14-D, and 24-D priced as reasonable as you care to charge.

I am sending via parcel post 400 35-S pennies at 2½¢ each which amounts to \$10.00 with a credit due to purchase of 14-D, 13-D, 12-D of \$3.90 gives a balance of \$6.10 with 37¢ postage equals \$6.47.

I am in hopes that I did the right thing by sending the extra 200 and I am in further hopes that each and every piece satisfies you.

I will be glad to exchange you some of the early S mints I have for any of the D mints I need. I truly believe this could be called a non-profit making idea.

I have one party in mind who I believe has some riff-raff 08-S and 09-S, but he lives in Los Angeles so will have to wait until I get over there which could be any day, when convenient.

Gladd to hear from you soon, I am,
Yours very cordially,
D.T. Anderson

* * *

ZIM STAMP AND COIN CO.

856 East 17th South
Salt Lake City, Utah

April 18, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Pardon the delay in answering, illness part of the time and inquiries to our ad reason for the delay in answering.

We are pleased to advise we can use the Providence (2 sets) and the Arkansas S and D 1935 for which we will trade 100 1931-S uncirculated Lincoln cents. This is equivalent to \$8.00 per set for Rhode Island and \$6.00 for the two Arkansas.

We have been selling many of the 1931-S cents at \$22.00 per 100, have traded 400 for set rare D & S Boones, have just traded 600 for Brilliant Proof Stella \$4 gold piece.

Within six months these cents will be selling at 75¢ to \$1.00 each and \$30.00 to \$50.00 per 100.

The 1935 both D and S mints can let you have some at \$3.50 per 100 in trade or \$3.00 cash and use retail prices on commemorative halves.

Thanking you for your valued inquiry and hoping we have the pleasure of hearing from you by return mail, we are,

Very truly yours,
Zim Stamp and Coin Co.
C.J. Zimmerman

P.S. We will not guarantee the offer of 1931-S cents for longer than two weeks from date.

* * *

PIONEER NATIONAL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION Lexington, Kentucky

May 2, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Yours of the 29th received...

I am sorry to say I have no complete series of the Boone coins to offer. In selling out the various issues, I saved a few for myself from issue to issue, and then let some one talk me out of them one at a time until I have practically nothing left but my own set. Even the 1936-D and S sold out in 14 days, when I expected them to last three or four months. I have had to return orders from some of my oldest customers because they arrived too late, and it took me six weeks to fill the orders that poured in here.

I see practically all issues of the Boone offered in The Numismatist, however, some at prices that I would not sell them if I had them today, as every issue quoted is a limited issue and really should be at a higher price—but that's the dealers' lookout, not mine. So you should be able to restore your Boones at a very fair price considering their ever increasing value.

With best regards, I am,
Yours very truly,
C. Frank Dunn

* * *

UNITED STATES COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLARS

ALL UNCIRCULATED

	Bid.	Ask.		Bid.	Ask.
1892 Columbian	\$.65	\$1.25	1935 Boone	\$1.75	\$3.00
1893 Columbian	—	.70	1935 Boone D	2.25	3.50
1915 Pan-Pacific	12.00	15.00	1935 Boone S	2.25	3.50
do., circulated	—	11.00	1935 Boone, Small		
1918 Lincoln . . . . .	.70	1.15	1934	1.25	2.00
1920 Maine	4.00	5.50	1935 Boone D small		
1920 Pilgrim	1.00	1.45	1934 and S Sm.		
1921 Pilgrim	4.00	7.50	1934	50.00	74.00
1921 Missouri	14.00	24.00	1935 Connecticut	4.00	6.00
1921 Missouri 2x4	15.00	25.00	1935 Arkansas	2.00	3.00
1921 Alabama	2.50	4.50	1935 Arkansas D	2.75	4.00
1921 Alabama 2x2	8.00	14.00	1935 Arkansas S	2.75	4.00
1922 Grant	2.00	3.00	1935 Hudson	6.00	8.50
1922 Grant "STAR".	43.00	60.00	1935 San Diego	—	1.40
1923 Monroe . . . . .	.90	1.50	1935 Old Spanish Tr.	4.50	6.00
1924 Huguenot	2.25	3.50	1935 Texas	1.25	2.00
1924 Lexington	1.00	1.45	1935 Texas D	1.25	2.00
1925 Stone Mountain . . . . .	.60	.85	1935 Texas S	1.25	2.00
1925 California	2.00	2.35	1936 Arkansas	—	1.65
1925 Vancouver	6.00	7.95	1936 Arkansas D	—	1.65
1925 Norse Thin	3.00	5.00	1936 Arkansas S	2.50	3.75
1925 Norse Thick . . . . .	.80	1.65	1936 Providence	2.50	3.75
1926 Sesqui	1.20	1.60	1936 Providence D	2.50	3.75
1926 Oregon	1.10	1.60	1936 Providence S	2.50	3.75
1926 Oregon S	1.10	1.70	1936 Boone P	—	1.75
1927 Bennington	1.60	2.50	1936 Boone D	2.25	3.75
1928 Hawaii	8.00	10.90	1936 Boone S	2.25	3.75
1928 Oregon	2.00	3.50	1936 Oregon S	3.25	5.50
1933 Oregon	4.75	8.50	1936 Texas P	—	1.80
1934 Oregon	2.50	4.50	1936 Texas D	—	1.80
1934 Maryland	1.00	1.50	1936 Texas S	—	2.00
1934 Texas	1.00	1.30	1936 Long Island	—	2.00
1934 Boone	1.75	3.00	1936 Cleveland	—	2.00

"BID" prices are what we will pay for nice Uncirculated coins. We can use circulated coins at discounts from these prices. Submit them for an offer.

"ASK" prices are our selling prices. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money refunded. Prices good while present stock lasts.

Above offers made to readers of The Numismatist.

Postage extra on orders under \$5.00.

All prices subject to change without notice.

TATHAM COIN CO.

Springfield, Mass.

(H. E. MacIntosh, Mgr., A. N. A. 4654)

The Tatham Coin Company, Springfield, Massachusetts, owned by Harold MacIntosh, primarily did business with the general public through the medium of small-space advertisements placed in popular magazines. However, during the commemorative fervor of the 1930s, Tatham was a major buyer and seller. This June 1936 advertisement lists bid and ask prices for various issues. One of the hottest of all was the 1934 Denver and San Francisco Boone pair with small "1934" in the field, which in the above advertisement is bid \$50 and ask \$74. These were put on the market in the autumn of 1935, but before most collectors desiring them could place orders, the distributor, Frank Dunn, reported that they had been sold out. Immediately the price jumped to about \$50 per set!

THE WHITMAN CENTENNIAL

Civic Building
Walla Walla, Washington

May 5, 1936

Dear Sir;

Regarding your inquiry about the proposed commemorative half dollar as a feature of the Whitman Centennial Celebration, please be advised as follows:

At the present time the proposal is merely in the form of a bill which is in the committee on coins, weights and measures, and no action has been taken as yet although this organization is actively seeking passage of the measure.

We are keeping your name on file and immediately upon favorable action, plans for distribution of the coins will be adopted and you will be notified as to the information requested in your letter. Might we suggest that as an individual interested in the coinage of such commemorative items that you correspond with your Congressmen and Senators urging passage of the bill which is known as H.R. No. 11555.

You, possibly, will be interested in the paper scrip which has been issued as a feature of the Whitman Centennial Celebration. It is described in the enclosed statement.

Your interest in this activity and your support of our program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Alfred McVay, Secretary

Ed Note: Despite all good intentions, no positive action was ever taken concerning a half dollar for the Whitman Centennial Celebration held in Walla Walla, Washington. August 13-16, 1936, so today this event is little remembered by collectors.

* * *

WELLS FARGO BANK & UNION TRUST CO.

San Francisco, CA.

May 7, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We received your letter of April 29, with reference to 2,000 1936-S mint pennies. The Federal Reserve Bank here informs me that to date there have been no 1936 pennies minted, and that there may be in two or three months. If you are interested, they have quite a supply of 1935-S pennies.

I shall keep in touch with the Federal Reserve Bank and as soon as the 1936 pennies are minted, I will inform you by air mail.

Very truly yours,
W.L. Muller, Pro Cashier

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent by California Pacific International Exposition mailed May 9, 1936)

The San Diego California Pacific International Exposition announces that the special issue of commemorative California Pacific International Exposition 1936 50c coins, Denver mint, will soon be available at \$1.50 each. A LIMITED NUMBER 1935 San Francisco mint coins at \$2.00 each, while they last.

The coins were designed by Robert Aitken, 227 West 13th Street, New York City, and were minted in San Francisco, California in 1935 and Denver, Colorado for 1936.

Orders for coins should be accompanied by postal money order, cashier's check or certified check payable to Emil Klicka, Treasurer.

* * *

CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
San Diego, Cal.

May 22, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 16th together with check in the amount of \$7.50 covering your order for five (5) 1936-D mint California Pacific International Exposition commemorative half dollars.

The 1936 issue, of which all will be struck at the Denver Mint, will be ready for distribution in approximately three weeks. Immediately upon receipt of these coins from the mint, your order for the above coins will be forwarded to you.

Yours very truly,
Emil Klicka, Treasurer

* * *

WISCONSIN CENTENNIAL INC.

Madison, Wisconsin

June 1, 1936

Dear Friend:

We take pleasure in informing you that the bill for the Wisconsin Centennial half dollar has passed both Houses of Congress and has been signed by the President. The design has been approved by the Fine Arts Commission and the die is being made.

This issue is to be for 25,000 coins all from one mint. There is to be just one type of one date; there will be no mintmark coins. The price is \$1.50 and postage.

The Committee plans to make distribution of the coins about June 15. There will probably be little sale and so prompt distribution is expected.

All matters relating to the sale and distribution of this coin will be handled through the Department of Public Instruction, State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin.

Every effort will be made to supply the needs of each coin collector and to see that everyone gets his order filled if it is received within a reasonable time prior to the date of distribution.

The Committee plans to ship all coins as fourth-class matter, insured, unless otherwise requested. The postage will be \$.07 for the first coin and \$.02 for each additional one. Delays may be avoided by including proper postage with the order. Remittance may be made by check, money order, etc.

Awaiting the privilege of serving you, we are

Very truly yours,
Wisconsin Centennial Coin Committee
John Callahan, State Superintendent Chairman

* * *

GRANTS HOBBY SHOP

109 Empire Street
Providence, Rhode Island

June 9, 1936

Friend Nichols:

To you yesterday, 1st class registered mail, the set of rare Boones; hope you receive them in good condition.

Be sure and phone me before coming, as I am out of town a good part of the time.

I note that Bulletin No. 8 Revised to May 29, 1936 reads as follows:
H.B. 12677
S. 4608. ("York County, Maine) S. 4608 reported favorably by Senate Committee on Banking and Currency May 21, 1936."

I think we can work together on this to our mutual benefit.

Yours very truly,
Grant's Hobby Shop
H.M. Grant

* * *



WISCONSIN CENTENNIAL *Incorporated...*

JUNE 27 • JULY 5 • MADISON, WISCONSIN

June 1, 1936

W. F. WHITNEY
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

HONORARY COMMITTEE

HON. MARVIN S. ROSENBERY
Chief Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court

HON. PHILIP F. LA FOLLETTE
Governor of Wisconsin

HON. GLENN FRANK
President, University of Wisconsin

HON. JAMES S. LAW
Mayor of Madison

HON. FRANK STEWART
Chairman Dime Co. Board

Dear Friend:

We take pleasure in informing you that the bill for the Wisconsin Centennial Half Dollar has passed both Houses of Congress and has been signed by the President. The design has been approved by the Fine Arts Commission and the die is being made.

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Awaiting the privilege of serving you, we are

Very truly yours,

Wisconsin Centennial Coin Committee
John Callahan, State Superintendent
Chairman



This notice from the Wisconsin Centennial Coin Committee gives details concerning the anticipated 1936 commemorative half dollar issue and provides ordering instructions.

(Reproduction of postcard sent by H. Evanson, June 13, 1936)

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Could you rise to a good bargain? I have 100 1931-5 5c nickels in Bright Uncirculated condition for sale at \$20.00 for the 100. These are very scarce. If interested let me hear from you at once.

Yours truly,
H. Evanson
421 Washington Street.
Dedham, Mass.

Ed Note: Following the death of Harold MacIntosh, H. Evanson in the 1960s acquired the assets of Tatham Stamp & Coin Co., Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1936, the date of the correspondence here, he was actively dealing in quantities of United States coins.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from New Rochelle Commemorative Coin Committee June 27, 1936)

Replying to yours of the 1/26/36, the New Rochelle half dollar will be coined at one mint only and distributed by this Committee at \$2.00 each plus postage and registry fee.

Pitt M. Skipton, Chairman

1 coin - \$2.18

2 coins - \$4.21

5 coins - \$10.24

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER

P.O. Box 75

El Paso, Texas

July 1, 1936

Dear Sir:

I have been appointed by the Elgin Illinois Centennial Committee to distribute their centennial commemorative half dollar, which I will do from my office in El Paso, Texas.

This coin is being sponsored by the Elgin Centennial Monumental Committee and the proceeds from the sale of the coins are to be used to erect a monument to the Pioneers who settled Elgin and Northern Illinois one hundred years ago. Mr. Trygve A. Rovelstad, a sculptor of Elgin, is the designer of both the coin and the monument.

Please note the Elgin Bill calls for NOT MORE THAN 25,000 COINS while some of the other Bills where the Commissions are asking \$1.75 and \$2.00 for their coins call for NOT LESS THAN 25,000 COINS.

The Elgin coins will all be from one mint, Philadelphia, and of one date and one design. There will be no varieties.

As a year has elapsed since this bill was introduced, we have over 7,000 advance orders on our books, and will fill orders in the order received, but we cannot accept orders unless accompanied by remittances, either check or money order. Please do not send stamps for the coins, and make all remittances payable to L.W. Hoffecker, Distributor.

The price has been set at \$1.50 per coin plus postage and insurance as follows:

1 to 3 coins 10c; 4 to 5 coins 15c; 6 to 10 coins 25c.

I hope the collectors will not delay sending in their orders as I wish to give them the same service I gave them when handling the Old Spanish Trail coin but cannot do so without their cooperation. I also wish to take care of the dealers for a reasonable number of coins, sufficient to supply their customers.

We expect to make delivery of the coins sometime in the early fall, as soon as the Mint can deliver them but please be patient as we cannot hurry the Government.

All orders and remittances will be acknowledged promptly,

Yours very truly,
L.W. Hoffecker, A.N.A. 2610

* * *

LYNCHBURG SESQUI-CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION
Lynchburg, Virginia

July 8, 1936

Gentlemen:

The enclosed letter and check from Allan D. Colvin, 8 Nathan Hale Street, New London, Connecticut came to this office through error; and you probably have the order and check intended for us.

May we extend greetings to you in your efforts and wish you great success.

Very truly yours,
Fred W. McWane, Secretary

Ed Note: The "efforts" referred to relate to Walter P. Nichols' distributorship of the 1936 York (Maine) commemorative half dollar.

* * *

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

July 13, 1936

Dear Collector:

We enclose herewith order blank which will entitle you to order one complete set of Cincinnati commemorative half dollars. A set consists of three coins one from each mint (Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco). The price established by the Committee is \$7.50 plus 25c to cover the cost of the display container with cellophane slide front, in which the coins will be placed, together with the cost of postage and insurance.

The Cincinnati coin was designed by the celebrated sculptress Miss Constance Ortmayer of Washington, D.C. It is a very beautiful design.

Only one set of Cincinnati commemorative coins can be purchased by each collector. The issue has been very greatly over-subscribed, so please do not ask us to reserve another set for you.

A check or postage money order for \$7.75 must accompany your order. If by any chance you do not want to purchase this set which has been allotted to you we will appreciate it if you will return the order blank to us so that we in turn can send it to some other interested collector. There will, unfortunately, be none left for dealers. We are sorry that the issue is so small that it will be impossible to take care of everyone. We beg to remain,

Very cordially yours,
Thomas G. Melish, President

P.S. The order blank enclosed herewith will be automatically cancelled if not returned within three days after it reaches you.

Distribution will be made about July 15th to 20th.

* * *

WAYTE RAYMOND INC.

580 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

COINS OF ALL COUNTRIES • NUMISMATIC BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

ROOM NO. 2302
DEPARTMENT OF
CLASSICAL
AND FOREIGN COINS



TELEPHONE
BRYANT 9-0969
CABLE ADDRESS
"WAYRAY" NEW YORK

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson St.,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have spoken to Mr. Raymond regarding the Oregon Trail
half dollars which you wished to have sent.

Mr. Raymond states that there will be plenty of these
coins available, and that they may be obtained from the
Oregon Trail Association, 1775 Broadway, New York City,
for \$1.00 each, plus postage.

Very truly yours,

Stuart Mosher
WAYTE RAYMOND INC
STUART MOSHER
manager

Wayte Raymond, who was involved in many numismatic partnerships and enterprises over the years, was at one time closely associated with the distribution of Oregon Trail half dollars and had a "corner" on several issues. Stuart Mosher, who later became a prominent figure in the American Numismatic Association, signed the above letter as manager of Wayte Raymond's office.

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 13, 1936

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

This will acknowledge your courteous favor under date of July 9. The Cincinnati coin sets (Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver) were over-subscribed within one month after the President signed our bill on April 1. Your application of course comes in several months too late, but we are taking the liberty of assigning to you five order blanks which have been returned to us for one reason or another. Some of them were returned because the collector had died before the order blank reached him, while others were returned because the collector was temporarily out of funds!! In any event we will take care of you and your associates to the amount of five sets if you will return the order blank which we hand you herewith with a check in the amount of \$36.75. We of course are listing these five sets in the names of the members of your Committee as we have a ruling to the effect that only one set can be sent to each collector.

This coin will bear the bust of Stephen Foster on the obverse side. Foster, as you know, wrote "My Old Kentucky Home," "Swanee River," etc. On the reverse side will be a draped figure of a woman playing a harp symbolic of the spirit of music. The coin was designed by the well-known sculptress Miss Constance Ortmyer of Washington, D.C. The Philadelphia coins are en route to us and we expect the Denver and San Francisco coins in about a week or ten days. Please therefore return the enclosed order blank promptly and oblige.

Very sincerely yours,
Thomas G. Melish, President

P.S. I take pleasure in handing you herewith my subscription for York County half dollars. I will require 20 of these coins for the members of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association of which the writer is one of the Board of Governors. If you will have to limit this subscription to 10 coins please advise so that we can send a subscription in under the name of our treasurer or secretary. All the coins will be needed for separate collections, but we will want them all sent to the writer. Please acknowledge receipt of this order and check, in the enclosed stamp envelope.

* * *

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 16, 1936

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

This will acknowledge your courteous favor under date of July 13, enclosing four order blanks for four sets of Cincinnati coins at \$7.50 each. The total amount due for these sets (at \$7.75 each) is \$31.00. We have credited your account in the amount of \$30.00 and will appreciate it if you will send us the small amount due (\$1.00) either in stamps or postal money order so as to complete your order.

In your letter you allude to another order and a request to reply to your "letter from Saco." We do not know what you mean by Saco. We understand that there is a York County Maine, coin known as the Saco coin. Possibly you are confusing our issue with some other issue.

Cordially yours,
Thomas G. Melish, President

P.S. The writer is also the distributor for the Cleveland Centennial coins. We enclose Cleveland order blank herewith.

* * *

DR. J.M. HENDERSON
51 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio
July 22, 1936

Mr. Henry Hunt, Chairman
Board of Governors, ANA
Pittsburgh, PA.

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The one thing I am anxious to see done, is to secure cooperation between the president and the chairman of the board. I know you and Clarke are doing this, but I ask myself, what of the future?

I do not believe your proposed amendment will accomplish this. Further, I do not believe the Constitution needs any amending. Had I thought so, it would have been offered at Cleveland while I was Chairman of Committee on Revision of Constitution and By-laws.

The present Constitution or by-laws do not give any executive duties to the chairman but they do place the president at the head of the ANA and makes him the one responsible for the progress of the ANA.

We are not governed by our charter or the deed of gift of The Numismatist. We must observe the provisions contained in it. The Board of Governors has no power to spend the funds of The Numismatist, only as their action is confirmed by the convention. The Board can appoint the editor and business manager, but has no other executive powers.

When I was president in 1910 and 1911, I was president and proceeded to administer the business affairs of the association, as its executive officer. I considered all elective officers as my cabinet, and advisors, which in reality they are.

If you can indicate to me wherein the president is deprived of administrative powers, or the Chairman of the Board, or the Board as a whole, is clothed with executive or administrative authority, I want to know it.

There are several items in your good letter with which I am in complete accord. I have always prided myself on standing by our officers, even sometimes when they were not right, entirely. You remember Cleveland, when I stood by Thorson and he was not always right.

You and Clarke have worked together, I believe and did not pull different ways, but it is the first instance for many years wherein the president and chairman have done this. You have also worked hard and spent money freely for the good of our association. Now what is all this about? We can never accomplish anything until we are in accord. To me, your amendment does not embody the same ideas we agreed to, when we talked affairs over here, during the meeting of the O.S.N.S. Perhaps I was under a wrong impression. Further, I do not think we can do what is desirable by amendments to the Constitution.

As long as we have officers like you and Clarke, we can "boom" along fine, but what of your successors?

Why not write an entirely new Constitution? I think we need it, but I doubt if amendments will solve our difficulties. Our Constitution is without a doubt obsolete. In a new Constitution we could very clearly set forth the duties and responsibilities of all the officers. Elect five or seven as trustees, whom with the other elective officers would constitute an executive committee, who could carry on between conventions. Do not elect a chairman of the trustees but let them organize and elect their own. The president to be the presiding officer of the executive committee.

The board of trustees could and would meet the demands of the deed of gift, and the charter, but do not give them any executive powers except to select the editor and business manager of The Numismatist. The acts of board of trustees could be checked by the executive committee. There are several other procedures that could be brought up to date by a new constitution.

I sincerely hope I can get to the convention but of course cannot say for sure this far in advance. I am much improved, even the old pump is in better working order. Hope that you can report the same. What is your reaction to above.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,
J.M. Henderson

(Note to Walter Nichols on his copy)

Mr. Nichols, you are trying this copy. Maybe when your Boston Club fully realizes what we are keeping to accomplish they will change their mind.

Ed Note: This letter from Dr. J.M. Henderson to Henry Hunt, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the ANA, was sent to other interested parties, including Walter P. Nichols, who it was hoped would transmit the information to collectors in New England.

* * *

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 22, 1936

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks very much indeed for your courteous favor under date of July 20 enclosing check in the amount of \$38.75 to cover five sets of Cincinnati coins.

Your order has been entered and shipment will be made as soon as we receive the Denver and San Francisco coins which are promised for next week. The Philadelphia minted coins are already here having been delivered a week ago last Monday.

Thanking you for this opportunity to cooperate with you, we beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,
Thomas G. Melish, President

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CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 22, 1936

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your nice letter under date of July 19 enclosing check in the amount of \$1.00 to cover small balance due. We appreciate your promptness in the matter.

Today we received a few more order blanks which were returned to us for one reason or another (sickness, death, absence from the city, or financial difficulties). We are sending you three of these order blanks as we feel quite sure you will have no difficulty in distributing them among some of the members of your committee, or friends who are interested. Please have them returned to us promptly, however, with check, if you wish to hold these reservations. All three sets can be sent to you if desired. The price, as you know, is \$7.75 per set.

We are glad to know that you are getting along so nicely with your York County Commemorative coins. We have already received the Philadelphia minted coins of the Cincinnati set, and expect the Denver and San Francisco coins within a week or ten days.

We have been advised by the Philadelphia Mint that the Cleveland coins were shipped to us Monday, so they ought to be in Cincinnati today, in which case we will start to distribute the Cleveland coins at once.

Please do not cut down our order for York County coins, as we will need all of them for our Cincinnati Numismatic Association.

With very best wishes for the success of your distribution, we beg to remain,

Cordially yours,
Thomas G. Melish, President

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
P.O. Box 75
El Paso, Texas
July 25, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received your letter this morning, and am sorry I could not have met you while you were in Washington, but I left there a couple of months ago.

Wish to thank you for allowing me the 100 coins, which I sent my check for several days ago. If I see I can use any more I will let you know, and hope I will be able to let you have an equal number or more of our coins.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours truly,
L.W. Hoffercker

Ed Note: The reference is to 100 York County commemorative half dollars distributed by Walter P. Nichols.

L.W. HOFFECKER
P.O. Box 75
El Paso, Texas
July 28, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received the card acknowledging my check this morning, but am very much surprised at the conditions printed on this card. These conditions make it impossible for me to do any business. As the local collectors depend on me to supply them with coins, and also a lot of my old customers who do not take any coin journals, I furnish them with the new issues, but with your reserving the right to sell the coins yourself, I cannot afford to sell any, and will be compelled to tell the local boys so.

I got caught with the Rhode Island people this way. They kept \$450.00 of my money for four months, and then returned every cent of it, so if you cannot accept my order without any strings attached to it, I shall have to ask you to return my check.

I do not treat my customers this way, or if you should give me an order I would not treat you this way. I either accept the order and the money the day they are received, or return same if I have a good reason, that same day.

Trusting you will not hold me down to these conditions, I await your reply.

Yours truly,
L.W. Hoffercker

* * *

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 31, 1936

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your nice letter under date of July 24.

The order blanks were received together with check and the coins will be forwarded to Mr. Ralph Hawkes for distribution.

The Cincinnati sale was a complete landslide and tremendously oversubscribed.

You may be interested in knowing that 25,000 Cleveland coins struck at the Philadelphia Mint (none were made at the other mints) reached us only a few days ago and already over 24,000 have been distributed. The other thousand will be distributed within the very near future. This sale was also a landslide.

I am under the impression that the York County coins which I ordered will be sufficient for our Cincinnati Numismatic Association. None of us speculate, but we are all ardent collectors.

Cordially yours,
Thomas G. Melish, President

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent by Albany Dongan Charter Coin Committee, August 3, 1936)

THE ALBANY COMMEMORATIVE COIN

will be issued sometime before October 1st, 1936. These coins will be distributed exclusively by this Committee. Orders accompanied by check will be filled in order of receipt. Price per coin \$2.00

The Committee will pay mailing charges.
ALBANY DONGAN CHARTER COIN COMMITTEE

W.L. Gillespie, Chairman
60 State Street
Albany, N.Y.

* * *

The York County Half Dollar

The bill authorizing the York County (Maine) half dollar was signed by President Roosevelt on June 26 and became Public Law No. 822. The bill authorized the issue of 25,000 pieces, and all will be struck at the Philadelphia Mint. It is expected the coins will be ready for distribution at the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the settlement of York county, which will take place in August. The designs are shown below. They were made by Walter H. Reed, of Portland, Maine, artist, and have been approved by the Fine Arts Commission, at Washington, with the exception that it has requested the date and ribbon above the seal be removed. This date appears elsewhere on the same side of the coin.



The obverse shows the old stockade on the Saco river, on which site now stands the York National Bank, the first and oldest bank in Maine. The stockade was called Brown's Garrison. The reverse shows the seal of York county.

Walter P. Nichols, secretary and treasurer of the York County Tercentenary Commemorative Coin Commission, who is a member of the A. N. A., will have charge of the distribution. He says:

"The issue is limited to 25,000 coins, 10,000 of which are to be reserved for residents of York county and the State of Maine, therefore, we anticipate the entire issue will be sold the day it is released. The price has been set at \$1.65 per coin, which includes packing, postage and insurance. Each order must be accompanied by a check or money order for the full amount of the order. The committee will endeavor to give preference to the applications in order of their receipt, subject to the following conditions: It is the intention of the committee that there shall be as wide a distribution of these coins to private collectors as possible, and for this reason the committee reserves the right to reject, in whole or in part, all orders. If the committee decides to reject or scale down any order, refund will be made at the expiration of the distribution of the issue."

This page from the August 1936 issue of "The Numismatist" describes the bill authorizing the York County (Maine) commemorative half dollar, for which Walter P. Nichols was secretary and treasurer of the York County Tercentenary Commemorative Coin Commission, the distributor.

Nichols administered the distribution of York Commemorative half dollars fairly and his actions were widely noted as being a model for how a commemorative coin commission should operate. In all of his dealings, with commemorative coins as well as with older pieces, Nichols endeavored to treat his clients fairly and honorably. He was widely admired, and at one time it was suggested that his bid for presidency of the American Numismatic Association would meet with success. However, ill health intervened, and higher office in the ANA was not to be.

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION PRE-VUES.



Drawn exclusively for The Numismatist.

This cartoon, drawn prior to the annual convention of the American Numismatic Association in Minneapolis in 1936, illustrates several prominent ANA individuals.

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Office of The President
Jamestown, N.Y.

August 3, 1936

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
Saco, Maine

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Many thanks for your fine letter of July 30th. According to your suggestion, I am enclosing my check for \$37.50 in payment of 25 of your coins—these you can ship via express.

I want to congratulate you on the fine way that you are going to distribute these coins, and I am sure that you will get nothing but praise from our members.

I have been writing our members to give their ANA membership number when ordering and at the same time writing the different coin chairmen, to ask that if it would be agreeable we would appreciate it very much to fill such orders in advance to selling any large lots.

Mr. Hoffecker has done such a fine job in Washington, that it's only a matter of short time until all collectors will get a fair break.

In fact, I would not be surprised, that in the near future these coins will be distributed by some committee appointed in Washington.

The Hudsons and Rhode Islands have given the whole affair a black eye, and if allowed to continue, I feel that commemorative half dollars might be shut off entirely.

I might add, that I had intended to visit all the New England and middle west clubs this spring and summer, but not my good luck for I have been tied up with a little heart attack, which prevented me from doing any work.

I am glad to state that I am feeling much better now and will be at the convention.

Six months ago I did not think that Mr. Hunt would be able to attend, but he is getting along fine, and attended our tri-state convention.

I am very sorry to learn that you will not attend the convention, but I fully realize that it's a big bump for you and would take up a lot of time.

Our Chicago friends have certainly started a lot of unnecessary fire and which is entirely unfilled for.

Let me say that I do not fully favor the Hunt Amendment, but it's at least a start in the right direction.

No organization can long endure with two sets of officers and neither know who is supposed to be the head of same.

Mr. Hunt wrote Mr. Wormser shortly after the last convention as to who was who between the conventions—naturally Mr. Wormser stood pat on the same side that he has taken for years—namely that the Board controlled the Association.

I cannot see that way, however we got along without any quarrels and have done what we thought was best for the ANA.

This same quarrel has been going on since the earliest days of the ANA. Dr. Henderson maintains that the Board is nothing more or less than the Cabinet of the President.

By the way Mr. Henderson is proposing that the Constitution and by-laws be rewritten, so as to define the authority and responsibilities of all officers and giving seven members or rather officers full power for governing the ANA.

Personally I think that this would work out better, and would not in any way conflict with the Charter of Deed of The Numismatist.

Of course, I don't know if any of these proposed amendments will go through.

Your Boston club did not quite understand just what we were trying to do otherwise would have taken a different stand. The Rochester club has completely reversed their decision as well as the Bronx club and the New York club I feel did not look at the mistake they made.

Upon learning of Mr. Dunham's and Mr. Ripstra's attitude I wrote each a personal letter, and as yet I have not been favored with a reply.

Mr. Duffield notified me that Mr. Ripstra's committee was going to run a full page ad in the August Numismatist and wired me if I wanted to do likewise. I immediately wrote him that I would not do so under any circumstances. Personally, I could not feel but that this was canvassing for votes, which I have always declined to do.

I did however, have Mr. Duffield publish my letter to Mr. Dunham and my letter to Mr. Ripstra will appear in the August number. There may be several letters in the August number from different members.

Personally, I am very much opposed to using the columns of The Numismatist for political purposes, as there can be no good that could come from same.

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you again in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,

T. James Clarke

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER

P.O. Box 75

El Paso, Texas

August 7, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received your kind letter this morning, and it is not any more than I expected to get from you, for I told my wife after your last letter that you wrote like a businessman, and I thought this issue was going to be handled in a manner that was open and above-board.

I am very sorry that you got in touch with Mr. Philbrick, and got advice from him, as that Rhode Island outfit is the crookedest commission that ever undertook to handle a coin. I told Mr. Philbrick this myself, and my lawyer also, and he tried to tell my attorney that I was misleading him, and was not well informed, and did not have good sense. But by the time we got through, notwithstanding they had all been distributed, with more than five to a person, he gave me ninety sets of coins to keep me from following up my suit, and the coins at that time were worth \$810.00.

I took the matter up with the Senate, and told the Rhode Island senator he was being used as a tool. He would not admit it, but by the time I got through with him, while he didn't admit that I knew what I was talking about, he proposed another bill to issue 50,000 more coins, to correct the mal-distribution of the first issue. That was all the admission I needed from him. I told the committee on Banking and Currency to turn the bill down unless they let someone like the American Numismatic Association handle the coins, for those crooks in Rhode Island would grab them all and lay them away to protect their first issue.

I have dozens of letters from them, saying that nobody got over ten coins, and one of their clique, Mr. H.M. Grant, comes out in The Numismatist and says that he got in excess of 11,000 coins. He is still selling the coins. All the banks in Rhode Island still have coins, but are just giving them out to their customers. These same bankers who were supposed to see that everything was open and above-board wrote letters here to Texas asking \$5.00 apiece for the coins within a week after they were put on the market. I don't wonder that Mr. Philbrick has several lawsuits on hand. He kept my money over three months, then wrote me and said if I would send money for postage he would send the coins at once, and then a month later returned all the money saying there were no coins left. They never did admit that my charges were justified, but they hated to see me in the frame of mind I was in, so gave me the coins to pacify me. All who believe that may stand on their heads.

For your information, I will say that your postal card is causing a lot of adverse criticism, and if I may be so forward as to give you some advice, I would change the reading of the card. You do not need any protection as long as you deal fairly. I did not get in any trouble whatever with the Old Spanish Trail. I just handled it like I always have handled my private business. I kept track of how many coins I had sold every day, and when I had sold within 1,000 of what I expected to get, I stopped accepting orders. I was also careful when I saw the coins were selling well not to take too large an order from a dealer. I gave all the dealers all the coins they asked for the first time, but after that I refused to double any of their orders. With a thousand coins I was able to take care of all emergencies, like different congressmen and senators, and the Department of the Mint, who wrote in asking for coins, and persons whom I was under obligation to, and if you are a subscriber to The Numismatist you will see how many favorable remarks have been made about the way that issue was handled.

I hate to see an issue handled so that there are complaints going in to Washington, as the senators and congressmen and officers in the Mint are sick and tired of receiving complaints about these coins, and it was very

hard work to keep them from putting an end to all these commemoratives. As it is, they worked off three medals on commissions who were not on their guard. They offered me a medal, but I talked them out of it. Other commissions who depended on their representatives there, and had no one who was posted, got left. The more satisfied way these issues are handled, the more chance we have of getting more.

I don't like the way they are handling the Bridgeport issue, as it looks very much like another steal like the Rhode Island, as no commission can dispose of 25,000 coins with only five coins to a person. The Maryland people only sold 15,000 out of their allotment of 25,000 and 5,000 of them were taken by the banks from a patriotic standpoint, and they were only asking \$1.00 for their coins. They sold the balance for \$0.75 apiece.

There is quite a bit of complaint about the collectors being called on to finance these issues for the commissions. Of course, there is nothing to a lot of these complaints. If a small collector wants to be sure of a few coins, it is up to him to put up the money as soon as he hears about them, but he should then be sure that he will get the coins. First come, first served. Every commission that I have had any correspondence with has been sadly disappointed about the local enthusiasm, or consumption, rather, of these coins. Every time I mentioned our coin here in town, I was called a highway robber for asking \$2.00 for them. Our newspapers gave me plenty of publicity for three months, and I got 150 orders from residents of El Paso. After it became known that there was a premium on them, they had the nerve to come around and tell me that since they had been a long time friend of mine, they were counting on me to save them some coins. Some of them got very sarcastic about it, but I was not peddling coins from door to door, nor guaranteeing them to increase in value. So you need have no fear of any lawsuits or any adverse criticism if you handle this issue in a business-like way, and quit selling coins when you have no more to sell.

Trusting you will pardon the length of my letter, and my giving you advice—but the advice I gave you is as much for the good of the commemorative situation as it is for yourself, personally.

With kind regards, I am

Yours truly,
L.W. Hofferker

* * *

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Jamestown, N.Y.

August 7, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have your letter of the 5th and assure you that I fully appreciate same and my only regret is that you will not be with us in Minneapolis.

As to the future distribution of commemorative half dollars would say that I think Mr. Hofferker has this thing pretty well lined up in Washington, however other letters might be of some benefit in putting this across.

This man Hofferker certainly is on the inside track in Washington, and I would not be surprised to learn that the officials may ask that a committee from the ANA be appointed to work with them.

Now as you have brought up the subject of Mr. Hunt's proposed amendment, I might as well express my views on same to you.

In the first place, I will say that I do not fully agree with this amendment for the one reason that I would like to see seven on the board instead of five, as it would give better representation.

With a national association like ours, I feel that we should have about the following representation:

One in the west, say San Francisco or Los Angeles, one in the south say Dallas, Texas, one in the middle west say Kansas City, Denver or Omaha and one in Canada.

The other three to be divided from the territories from Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York City and from the New England states.

Mr. Hunt's contention is that under the present Constitution and by-laws we could not lawfully have over five members, so with this thought in mind, I thought it better to accept his plan for the present than to lay idle and do nothing.

Since that time Dr. Henderson comes along with another proposal which I think would solve all our future troubles along this line. He proposed

that the Constitution and by-laws be entirely rewritten and get them in such a manner so that every officer would know his responsibility and authority.

Nothing could be better than this. The only drawback to this is that it would tie things up for another year, unless a special election was called. Therefore, under these circumstances, would it not be better to adopt Mr. Hunt's resolution for the next year so that we would get all factions together, and at the same time also adopt Mr. Henderson's resolution, so that same could be in shape to present to the next convention.

In any event, I think that you fully understand what we are trying to do—and that is simply do something that will bring these two factions together and therefore have one real governing board.

This strife goes back to 1912. Dr. Henderson was on one side of the fence with his friends, Howland Wood and his bunch on the other and this has continued through all these years—regardless of what others may try to tell you that no such thing ever existed.

Only one and two years back the same friction was between Mr. Freeman as Chairman of the Board and Mr. Thorson as President.

I might also say that Mr. Hunt and the writer have been far apart on the very same things—but we just forgot who was who in ANA and went ahead and accomplished the things which we had set out to do. And this we have done without causing any ill feelings between us. I am enclosing a copy of Dr. Henderson's proposed changes and would ask that you return same to me. You may make a copy if you care to. Of course, I can see where some things would have to be ironed out, but as a whole it covers it pretty well, and still keeps within the Charter and Deed of The Numismatist.

I am under the impression that you are connected in some way with some bank, am I correct? If so I can say to you wouldn't it be grand and glorious if the ANA could be conducted as we do a bank. What a hoard of members of the board to select from!

You are dead right about the happenings at the Pittsburgh Convention—and you will recall that Mr. Wormser is the only one who made the long plea that the convention go on record for Minneapolis. Wormser is a fine boy and one of my best numismatic friends, but he does do a lot of silly things at times. You will also recall that he spent considerable time to get through the appropriation of \$100.00 instead of \$50.00 for the librarian.

Afterwards, I wrote Mr. Wormser and asked him what he would have done if he had known that the ANA branch had run in the red for four years out of the past five. This I found out by making a complete operating statement for the past five years, as well as to find that the advertising was only paying 42.6% of the operating costs of The Numismatist.

Yes it's a dead shame that Detroit could not have had the convention this year—they stepped aside for Cleveland. Now will they ever ask for it again?

Write your letter to me if you care to and I will see that it is read.

Even if the members of the Minneapolis club are going to be deprived of the prayers of the holy, I feel that they have a keen bunch of business men and we need not worry about the future existence or growth of that club.

I think that I have already told you that Mr. Duffield wired me stating that Mr. Ripstra's campaign committee was running a full page ad and asked if I would do likewise. I immediately told him NO and furthermore that I would not ask a single person for their support.

In this connection, I might say that I am really grateful to Mr. Ripstra and his committee for publishing a part of a letter which I dictated but never published, as it will not give me a chance to read the entire letter, and will then be content to leave it to the members as to why they did not use the entire letter, instead of part of one paragraph. To me such tactics seem to be far beneath the dignity of the ANA.

Well I've reached the end. So, so long until I hear from you again.

Sincerely,
T. James Clarke

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
P.O. Box 75
El Paso, Texas

August 11, 1936
Dear Mr. Nichols:

Our letters evidently crossed each other in the mail. I wrote you some time ago about the postal card you sent me, and not getting any reply. I sent you another letter with an air mail envelope enclosed. The next day after mailing that, I got your reply, which was very satisfactory, and I am not at all worried any more. In fact, I was not very much worried to start with, but I wanted to be sure about it, as there has been too much racketeering going on in this commemorative business.

Now I see a man in Albany comes out and gets The Numismatist to name him as the distributor of the Albany coin. Just as that man Grant did in Rhode Island, and he is charging more than the regular price of the coin. This is misleading to the collectors, and looks very much like another racket. Mr. Gillespie, in Albany, told me that they were going to handle all the coins themselves, but since that I have been unable to get any reply to my letters to him. I wrote him the same day I wrote you, and then wrote him again, but up to the present time I have not received any reply.

Let me know how many Elgin coins you will want, and it is not necessary for you to send the money until I send the coins. I will check up in a day or two and see if I can use any more of your coins.

Thanking you very much for the offer of letting me have more, and with kind regards, I am,

Yours truly,
L.W. Hoffecker

* * *

COLUMBIA SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Columbia, S.C.

August 12, 1936
Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter relative to the commemorative coins.

We have been advised by the Mint that the designs for the coin have been accepted, but it will be a question of from six to eight weeks before the coins are minted due to certain preliminaries. The bill for the minting of the coin provided for the minting of 25,000 coins, and they will, in all probability, be minted in the three mints. It is our desire that the coins shall be issued to collectors, and it is quite probable that the maximum number will be 10 to any one collector.

However, this question and also the price of the coin has not yet been decided by the Commission. As soon as these details have been arranged, an order blank will be printed and each person whose name is filed with us, among them you, will receive one of these order blanks. In the meantime, we wish to thank you for your patience and interest and want you to know that circumstances beyond our control have caused the delay.

Very truly yours,
James H. Hammond, Chairman

* * *

BRIDGEPORT CENTENNIAL, INC.
Bridgeport, Connecticut

August 12, 1936
Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your order for five of our commemorative half dollars. I am forwarding your letter to Mr. Charles H. Hurliman, of the First National Bank and Trust Company for further attention.

We wish to congratulate the York County Tercentenary Commission in celebrating your 300th anniversary and wish you every success in the fulfillment of your plans.

We are celebrating our 100th anniversary as an incorporated city with a program of events from June 4 until October 3.

I am enclosing two copies of revised programs as of June and August which I am sure will be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,
W.B. Aurandt
Managing Director

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
P.O. Box 75
El Paso, Texas

August 13, 1936
Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received your letter of August 11th, and find it very interesting. The fact that the designers of the coin got a dirty deal just confirms my opinion of the whole Rhode Island commission. I told their senator I didn't believe there was a straight man on the commission, and there must be a lot of crooks in the banks up there, too, as every bank in Rhode Island is making a lot of money, instead of distributing the coins.

I did not mean to confer the idea to you that Mr. Melish was doing anything crooked. I don't think he is, but I think he is very foolish in sending out some of the letters he has. I know of four people who were put on the preferred list, and then did not get their order blanks. When they wrote in and asked for them, they were told that their order arrived so late that they could not take care of them except that a collector died, and his widow was financially unable to pay for the coins, and they were sending her blanks to them. I think any man is very foolish who will send out letters like this, and think that he is getting away with it, for these collectors, especially if they have a grouch on, will get together and talk. He is holding back 2,000 sets for the music lovers of Cincinnati. Every commission thinks there is going to be a lot of local enthusiasm over the issue, and is always disappointed. When he finds out the music lovers do not love coins also, I don't know what he will do with them. Possible he will sell them at a higher price. I understand they are offering \$10.00 apiece for order blanks, and \$37.50 each for Cincinnati coins.

Mr. Dunn has quit distributing coins in his name, and everything is in his wife's name now. I expect he thinks he can get around some of the suits this way, but I heard today where a man deposited \$50.00 in a bank in Lexington, and told them the money was there for a set of coins, and Mrs. Dunn shipped them. I took several of their envelopes up to Washington with me, showing that Mr. Dunn handled the coins at first, and later on changed it to his wife.

There is a chance that no commission will get any more coins after the first of the year. They have a bill up to appoint a commission of five, one from the National Geographic Society, one from the Smithsonian Institute, one from the Congressional Library, and one from some historical society, and I asked them to put a member of the American Numismatic Association on as the fifth member, which they agreed to. They will pass on the merits of the bills that come up, and these commemoratives will be limited to about ten a year, and will be sold by the government at \$1.00 each, and you can buy as many as you wish. I, however, got them to put it in the bill that one year after the coins were issued all the surplus would be melted up. In that way the value of the coins would increase a little in the years to come. They said the government would take the profit. I tried to get them to give it to the American Numismatic Association, and let them handle the coins, and use the profits to increase our coin collection. I could not get away with that, so I asked them to give it to the Smithsonian Institute, to increase our national collection, as the Institute is only allowed \$1,000 a year to buy coins, and they thought better of that. Now, if they insist on cutting off all private commissions from getting coins, I think this is what will happen.

I want to thank you for the compliment that you would like to work with me on a commission. I was supposed to have two other men on the committee when I went to Washington, but they laid down on me. One of them came down and spent a couple of hours with me, but could not give up the time to stay longer, and the other fellow was afraid of what criticism would come up. I am like you. I don't worry about a little criticism, if I think I am doing what is right, and I think any sane man knows right from wrong, and I can't understand Mr. Philbrick getting into the trouble he did. I don't think the man can have good business sense.

I got into an argument in New York over the Old Spanish Trail. A dealer advertised the coins for sale at auction two months before they were minted, and I objected to it, as a lot of people would have roasted me for giving dealers coins before they got them, and he got pretty hard-boiled about

it. My secretary suggested that we cut him off without any coins at all, but I immediately told her that I was financially responsible, that I had accepted his order in writing, and that he would have cause for action against me. To confirm my opinion, I took it up with my attorney, and he told me I had better make delivery, which I would have done anyway, as he could have told his story in print, and made it sound bad for me. I tried to smooth over everybody in handling the Old Spanish Trail issue, and think I succeeded very well. I had plenty of reasons for getting peeved, and telling some of them something, but just forgot about it.

In reference to the collectors financing an issue, I don't see anything wrong about it, if you accept their money, and give them their coins, but they certainly do have a kick if their money is kept for three or four months and then returned. I had all my money in the bank for the coins before I received them. On a 10,000 issue, I can sell all the coins without putting a single ad in a magazine. On account of their being so many issues out now, it is a hardship on the dealers to put up so much money, and knowing them all, I am telling the responsible ones that if they will send me a down payment of 25%, I will book their order and notify them when the coins are ready for shipment, and they can remit the balance then. I think this is no more than right. But if a small collector wants a coin and is not willing to pay his money and let you use it to pay for the coins, he is not entitled to one. I made arrangements with the Federal Reserve Bank to have the coins shipped here, and my bank had already told me they would put up the money for the coins, and carry them on their cash account, not thinking that I would have enough money on hand.

I also had dealers ask me to buy the entire issue. One of the largest in the country told me afterwards I was doing the right thing in turning him down, but everybody else was trying to get all the coins they could, and there was no harm in his trying, but he admired me for not taking him up.

I enjoyed your letter very much, and was in hopes I might meet you at the convention in Minneapolis next week. I expect all we will do is elect a president, and talk commemoratives.

Wish to thank you for your check for the five coins, and I will ship them to you as soon as I receive them, which I hope will be some time in September.

I don't know that I should be pleased at anyone's hard luck, but Mr. Philbrick invited all he has coming. He could not tell the same story twice alike about the way they were handling those coins. In sending me my ninety sets he told me they combed every bank and every agency in Rhode Island to help me out of an embarrassing situation, and those ninety sets were all they had left, and now he tells you that the banks are holding out enough to take care of all these suits which started since mine, and I expect my success in settling with him is the cause of some of the other suits, as I did not keep it a secret. He merely settled with me because he thought it was the cheapest way out, not for any love of me. To show you how small Philbrick is, he picked out twenty damaged coins, wrapped them all up in one package, and sent them to me as part of my quota. I only got three damaged coins out of 10,000 from the mint, and I can't understand this. Every one looks as though it had been struck twice with some hard metal, and after what I have seen of him I would not put it past him to have damaged the coins purposely before he sent them to me. I did not notice them until one of my customers complained about a couple of marks on his coin, and I looked over a whole package of twenty, and found them all marked in about the same way.

Yours very truly,
L.W. Hoffecker

* * *

LYNCHBURG SESQUI-CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION
Lynchburg, Virginia

August 13, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Complying with your request of the 11th we are enclosing herewith an order form for the purchase of Lynchburg commemorative half dollars. As the issue is nearly sold out and we are being forced to restrict our orders to local citizens it is suggested that you refer to this letter in placing your order, for the five coins, so that it will get preferred attention, and that you act promptly.

I am enclosing my personal check for one of your coins which I would appreciate if you will accept and mail same promptly out.

Our experiences have been quite satisfactory, in that we have had orders from every state in the Union and from several foreign countries. Our coins are expected within thirty days and will be completely sold out before then. We trust you will have a similar experience and will not only be successful in the coins but in your Tercentenary celebration.

Very truly yours,
Fred W. McWane, Secretary

* * *

DETROIT COIN CLUB

Office of the Secretary
Detroit, Michigan

August 14, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In reply to your letter of August 11th, in which you ask for an application for the proposed Michigan commemorative half dollar, please be advised that we do not have any order blanks ready at the present time. Our Bill HRI2910 was not presented in time to pass at the last session of Congress and if we are successful in having same approved next year, you will be notified and given an opportunity to purchase the coins you desire.

Thank you for the order blank that you enclosed, but I have already ordered mine through the Detroit Coin Club order which you have already acknowledged. The Detroit Coin Club wishes you and your Commission much success in your distribution of the York County half dollar.

Sincerely,
Kenneth A. Fulton, Secretary-Treasurer
251 Manor Ave.,
Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Ed Note: The Michigan commemorative half dollar never came to pass and is one of numerous issues lost in the Sargasso Sea of unrealized numismatic dreams.

* * *

CHARLES J. KNABENSCHUH

212 Grafton Avenue
San Francisco, Cal.

August 15, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your kind letter. Was wondering if you are getting any York County half dollars which are numbered. If so I would like you to use your influence so I could get one. Will gladly pay you a good premium, or will make it up some way.

I could also use a couple more Yorks if you wish to exchange for pennies when available (or maybe quite a few Yorks).

Am writing this in a rush, so please excuse. I am,

Sincerely,
Charles J. Knabenschuh
P.S. Please answer by air mail. Stamps enclosed. Thanks.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent by New Rochelle Commemorative Coin Committee August 25, 1936)

We acknowledge receipt of yours of 24 inst, enclosing check for \$10.25 in payment for 5 New Rochelle commemorative half dollars which will be forwarded to you when issued.

New Rochelle Commemorative Coin Committee
Pitt M. Skipton, Chairman
I would like to get 2 York Co. coins. What will they cost me? P.M.S.

* * *

Bridgeport Centennial, Inc.

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

MAYOR JASPER MCLEVY
HONORARY CHAIRMAN
HON. EDWARD T. BUCKINGHAM
GENERAL CHAIRMAN
SENATOR JOHN M. TAFT
VICE-CHAIRMAN



FRANCIS J. HILL
SECRETARY
PERRY W. RODMAN
TREASURER
W. B. AURANDT
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Official Headquarters

The Stratfield Hotel, Mezzanine Floor

Telephone 6-0126

August 12, 1936.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols, Sec. & Treas.,
York County Tercentenary
Saco, Maine

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your order for five of our Commemorative Half Dollars. I am forwarding your letter to Mr. Charles H. Hurliman, of the First National Bank and Trust Company for further attention.

We wish to congratulate the York County Tercentenary Commission in celebrating your 300th anniversary and wish you every success in the fulfillment of your plans.

We are celebrating our 100th anniversary as an incorporated city with a program of events from June 4 until October 3.

I am enclosing two copies of revised programs as of June and August which I am sure will be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,


Managing Director

WBA:wai

Encls.

Issuers of commemorative half dollars often corresponded with each other, and the file of Walter P. Nichols' letters contains many from his contemporaries. In the above letter the managing director of the Bridgeport Centennial writes to congratulate him on the success experienced by the York County Tercentenary Commission. The name of the game was "success," and most circulars from issuing commissions, as well as private correspondence, were apt to state how well things were going, when the truth might have been different. For example, thousands of York commemorative half dollars remained unsold several years after the celebration ended.

L. W. HOFFECKER
DISTRIBUTOR
ELGIN CENTENNIAL COIN
P.O. BOX 75-EL PASO, TEXAS

August 7, 1936.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
York County Perpetuary,
York National Bank,
Saco, Maine.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received your letter this morning, and it is not any more than I expected to get from you, for I told my wife after your last letter that you wrote like a businessman, and I thought this issue was going to be handled in a manner that was open and above-board.

I am very sorry that you got in touch with Mr. Philbrick, and got advice from him, as that Rhode Island outfit is the crookedest commission that ever undertook to handle a coin. I told Mr. Philbrick this myself, and my lawyer also, and he tried to tell my attorney that I was deluding him, and was not well-informed, and did not have good sense, but by the time we got through, notwithstanding they had all been distributed, with not more than five to a dollar, he was to ninety cents of coins to keep me from following up my suit, and he said that the coins were worth \$310.00. I took the matter up with the Senate, and told it known facts, and they were being used as a tool, but he would not admit it, but when I said that I was going to sue him, he didn't admit that I knew what I was talking about, he only said that he said he had more coins, to correct the mal-distribution of the first issue. That was the commission I needed from him. I told the Committee on Finance in Congress, he said that I was lying, unless they let someone like the American Numismatic Association handle the coins, for those crooks in Rhode Island would grab them all one by one, and I told them that I had issued my first issue. I have dozens of letters from them, saying that I was not to be trusted, and one of their clique, Mr. H. M. Grant, comes out in the Washington Post and says that he has not in excess of 11,000 coins. He is still selling the coins at 90 cents, and he says that he still has coins, but are just giving them out to their customers, and he says that he was supposed to see that everything was open and above-board, and he says that he was in \$5.00 apiece for the coins, within a week after they were put on the market. I don't wonder that Mr. Philbrick has several lawsuits against him, he said that he was over the coins, then wrote me and said if I would send money for more he would send the coins at once, and then, a month later, returned all the coins, saying that he was out of coins left. They never did admit that my charges were justified, but they looked to me as if the frame of mind I was in, so gave me the coins to suit me, and I am glad that they stand on their heads.

For your information, I will say that your postal card is causing a lot of adverse criticism, and if I did not see forward as to give you some advice, I would change the nature of this card. You do not need any protection as long as you deal fairly. I did not get in an adverse position with the old Spanish Trail. I just handled it like I always have handled my business. I kept track of how many coins I had sold every day, and when I was sold 11 in 1 day, of what I expected to get, I stopped accepting orders. I was also careful not to take too large an order from a dealer, I was in the habit of taking a coin they asked for the first time, but after that I refused to handle any of their orders. With a thousand coins I was able to take care of

On this and the following page are shown two pages of a letter from L.W. Hoffercker to Walter P. Nichols. Nichols and Hoffercker engaged in an extensive correspondence on many subjects, with commemorative half dollars and American Numismatic Association politics being favorites.

L. W. HOFFECKER
DISTRIBUTOR
ELGIN CENTENNIAL COIN
P. O. BOX 75-EL PASO, TEXAS

(2)

all emergencies, like different Congressmen and Senators, and the Dept. of the Mint, who wrote in asking for coins, and persons whom I was under obligation to, and if you are a subscriber to the "Numismatist" you will see how many favorable remarks have been made about the way that issue was handled.

I hate to see an issue handled so that there are complaints going in to Washington, as the Senators and Congressmen and officers in the Mint are sick and tired of receiving complaints about these coins, and it was very hard work to keep them from putting an end to all these commemoratives. As it is, they worked off three medals on commissions who were not on their guard. They offered me a medal, but I talked them out of it. Other commissions who depended on their representatives there, and had no one who was posted, got left. The more satisfied way these issues are handled, the more chance we have of getting more.

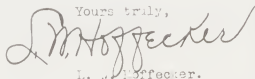
I don't like the way they are handling the Bridgeport issue, as it looks very much like another steal like the Rhode Island, as no commission can dispose of 5,000 coins with only five coins to a person. The Maryland people only sold 15,000 out of their allotment of 25,000, and 5,000 of them were taken by the banks from a patriotic standpoint, and they were only asking \$1.00 for their coins. They sold the balance for \$0.75 apiece.

There is quite a bit of complaint about the collectors being called on to finance these issues for the commissions. Of course, there is nothing to a lot of these complaints. If a small collector wants to be sure of a few coins, it is up to him to put up the money as soon as he hears about them, but he should then be sure that he will get the coins. First I come, first served. Every commission that I have had any correspondence with has been sadly disappointed about the local enthusiasm, or consumption, rather, of these coins. Every time I mentioned our coin here in town, I was called a highway robber, for asking \$2.00 for them. Our newspapers gave me plenty of publicity for three months, and I got 100 orders from residents of El Paso. After it became known that there was a scandal in them, they had the nerve to come around and tell me that since they had seen a long-time friend of mine, they were counting on me to save them some coins. Some of them got very sarcastic about it, but I was not peddling coins from door to door, nor guaranteeing them to increase in value. If you need have no fear of any lawsuits or any adverse criticism, if you handle this issue in a business-like way, and quit selling coins when you have no more to sell.

Trusting you will pardon the length of my letter, and my giving you advice--but the advice I gave you is as much for the good of the commemorative situation as it is for yourself, personally.

With kind regards, I am

Yours truly,



L. W. Hoffecker.

L.H:A

JUDGE DON P. HALSEY, President
R. T. WATTS, JR., Vice-President

CARTER GLASS, Honorary President
MRS. JOHN H. LEWIS, Vice-President

JOHN W. CRADDOCK, Vice-President
THOMAS W. WILLIAM, Treasurer

LYNCHBURG SESQUI-CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

1786



1936

FRED W. McWANE, Secretary

Headquarters: VIRGINIAN HOTEL

P. O. BOX 731

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

August 13, 1936.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols, Secretary & Treas.,
York County Tercentenary,
York National Bank,
Saco, Maine.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In reply to your request of the 11th we are enclosing herewith an order form for the purchase of Lynchburg Tercentenary Half Dollars. As the issue is nearly sold out and we are being forced to restrict our orders to local citizens it is suggested that you refer to this letter in placing your order, for the sake of giving it the attention it deserves, and that we act promptly.

I am enclosing my personal check for one of your coins - I am sure it will be accepted if you will accept and mail same to me. *Not taken received by you*

Our efforts have been quite satisfactory, in that we have had orders from every state in the Union and from several foreign countries. Our coins are expected within thirty days and will be completely sold out before then. We trust you will have a similar experience and will not regret the success of the coins but in your Tercentenary Celebration.

Very truly yours,

F. W. McWANE

Fred W. McWane
Secretary.

CELEBRATING THE ISSUANCE OF THE CHARTER, OCTOBER 11-16

This August 13, 1936 letter from the Lynchburg Sesquicentennial Association tells of the great interest in half dollars issued by that organization: "Our coins are expected within thirty days and will be completely sold out before then."

(Reproduction of postcard from Pennsylvania State Commission, August 26, 1936)

Dear Sir:

The Pennsylvania state commission will handle sale and distribution of the Gettysburg commemorative half dollars.

The price is \$1.65 per coin. We do not have order blanks and there will be no C.O.D. shipments.

The commission has requested 20,000 coins from the Philadelphia Mint, 15,000 from the Denver Mint and 15,000 from the San Francisco Mint.

We will deliver coins as soon as they are minted which we hope will be within several months. We are accepting orders.

Pennsylvania State Commission

Paul L. Roy, Executive Secretary

You have ordered 9 coins.

We acknowledge receipt of \$14.85 from you.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Equitable Trust Company, August 28, 1936)

We acknowledge receipt of \$8.75 for 5 Delaware Swedish Tercentenary half dollars. Coins will be forwarded as soon as minted, probably in the fall.

Equitable Trust Company, Agent

for Delaware Swedish Tercentenary Commission

By George Rissel Dougherty

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent by Albany Dongan Charter Coin Committee September 11, 1936)

Your order for 5 coins, together with payment of \$10.00 received.

The coins will be sent to you when ready, according to allotment and an adjustment of cash will be made if full order cannot be filled.

Albany Dongan Charter Coin Committee

W.L. Gillespie, Chairman

60 State Street

Albany, N.Y.

* * *

GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP

109 Empire Street

Providence, R.I.

September 1, 1936

Dear Walter:

Thought that I should want 100 more of the York County, but will not place my order until I am absolutely sure that I am to dispose of them.

I am enclosing my check for \$10.00, as per my agreement. If there is anything said regarding this set of half dollars, I did not make application in person, but Mr. Kilton, who is associated with me, sent the order in his name, and he has received the set. Melish wrote that the order had been cancelled, but that he was making an exception and filling it. I am sorry you turned in the other blanks, as I would have been delighted to have had them at \$10.00 per.

I also wish to acknowledge receipt of the four sets of Cincinnati that you recently sent me.

Mr. Clarke was re-elected at the convention, and quite a shake-up occurred on the Board of Governors. I left Wednesday night after the banquet, so have not full details. I will give them to you as soon as I receive them. Had a very pleasant trip, but returned earlier than I anticipated, due to the extreme heat in St. Louis, and south.

Yours very truly,
Horace M. Grant

* * *

THE TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Dallas, Texas

September 1, 1936

Dear Walter:

The ten (10) York County coins reached me in good shape, and I want to congratulate you for the splendid design. You have seen to it that the coin is not too crowded. Everything is legible and clear and you do not have to have a microscope to see it. So many of the commemoratives now a days are crowded and full.

The ANA meeting in Minneapolis was quite incomplete without you. Both Mr. Grinnell and I agreed to this. I spent a fine day with him in Detroit. We were together one day in Chicago, then, we spent much time together at the convention. We agreed we would not take "no" for an answer from you next year.

Sincerely,

W.A. Philpott, Jr. Secretary

* * *

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

September 1, 1936

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

This will acknowledge your courteous favor under date of August 30.

Please be advised that our records show that five sets of Cincinnati commemoratives were sent to you in insured parcel post package No. 3186 on August 20. Another package containing four sets insured package No. 2055 moved forward to you on August 16.

Apparently the five set package has reached you and the four sets have not.

We have placed tracer on the four set package 2055 of August 16 with the post office authorities with the request that they effect delivery.

Thanking you for calling our attention to this matter, we beg to remain,

Cordially yours,

Thomas G. Melish, President

* * *

CHARLES J. KNABENSCHUH

212 Grafton Avenue

San Francisco, Cal.

September 5, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Let me thank you for the beautiful specimens of York County half dollars which you set me.

Now to do you a favor I will supply you with Bridgeport coins at same price as commission. I will pick out perfect coins for you. Glad to do this for you. Expect to have these in about 2 weeks, maybe sooner.

Again thanks, I am,

Sincerely,

Charles J. Knabenschuh

* * *

Senator Glass is chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, succeeding Senator Fletcher of Florida, who died a few weeks ago.

Designs Approved for Columbia (S. C.) Coin.

James H. Hammond, chairman of the Columbia (S. C.) Sesqui-Centennial Commission, has been notified of the approval by the Fine Arts Commission of the designs for the Columbia half dollar. A. Wolfe Davidson, Clemson College sculptor, prepared the designs. The bill authorized 25,000 coins. It has not yet been decided whether all of them will be struck at one mint. It is said that orders for 10,000 coins had been received to August 1.

Great Lakes (Cleveland) Coin Distributed in August.

Distribution of the Cleveland half dollar began August 1. The coin was illustrated in the July issue of this magazine from a photograph of the sculptor's models.

The York County (Maine) Half Dollar.

Walter P. Nichols, distributor of the York County half dollar, writes as follows:

The York County commemorative half dollar is in every way a State of Maine product, designed by a Maine man, the obverse and reverse emblematical of York County and distributed by citizens of the State of Maine.

The obverse shows Brown's Garrison, one of the first stockades in existence, situated on the Saco River, in Saco, Maine, and was located on the site of the present York National Bank building. In a book published by Mr. Frank C. Deering, president of the York National Bank, in 1931, on the anniversary of one hundred years of that bank, entitled "The Proprietors of Saco," Mr. Deering uses an old wood cut of this garrison, from which was taken the design.

The reverse is the seal of York County, which is on file in the State Library at Augusta, and which adorns the high leather-back chair of the presiding justice of the Superior Court at Alfred, Maine. The seal is a pine tree in a white shield and in the upper left corner is the pine tree, emblematical of Maine (the Pine Tree State). Over the shield was the date 1839, but as we used this date opposite the 1936, this is eliminated on the coin.

Around the edge is inscribed "York County, The First County in Maine." At that early date the thought of adding "Maine" after York County was overlooked, and not essential, as this was the only York County in existence. Unlike there are other York Counties, but, Maine's York County will always be the first.

The artist was Walter H. Rich, of Portland, Maine, and Falmouth Foreside. Mr. Rich is internationally known for his remarkable drawings of wild life, which show the animals in detail and exactness of color.

The designs were made by G. S. Paerdt Company of Boston, Mass. These were struck in solid brass and were a masterpiece. It was the first time that designs had been submitted to the Treasury Department and to the United States Mint for a commemorative half dollar and caused many most favorable comments.

Twenty five thousand of the York County commemorative half dollars were allotted and twenty were reserved for the residents of York County and the State of Maine. This allotment was oversubscribed and additional commemorative sets made. There left a small number for the collectors in the United States. An attempt has been made to supply all individual collectors, and the commission feels that they have been successful.

Commemoratives were very much in the news in 1936, and virtually every issue of "The Numismatist" devoted many paragraphs to new coins and proposals. In September 1936 a description of the York County (Maine) half dollar was given, quoting a letter from Walter P. Nichols.

ALBANY DONGAN CHARTER HALF DOLLARS

For Sale by the Official Committee Only

Price \$2.00 Each

Half Dollars commemorating the 250th anniversary of the granting of the Dongan Charter to Albany, N. Y., will be ready for distribution soon after October 1st. Distribution is solely through the Official Committee, which has no agents or others acting in its behalf.

To receive attention all orders should be accompanied by remittance and addressed to the Committee.

Albany Dongan Charter Coin Committee

W. L. Gillespie, Chairman

60 State Street

Albany, N. Y.

York County, Maine Tercentenary Commemorative Half Dollar

This coinage is limited to 25,000, and will be made at one mint. We are now making immediate delivery at the following prices, cash with orders:

1 Coin	\$1.65 each.	Total.....\$	1.65
2 Coins.....	1.60 each.	Total.....	3.20
3 Coins.....	1.58 each.	Total.....	4.74
4 Coins.....	1.57 each.	Total.....	6.28
5 Coins.....	1.56 each.	Total.....	7.80
10 Coins or more.....	\$1.55 each.		

Above prices include packing, postage and insurance. After reserving a sufficient number of coins for the residents of York County, the supply will be very limited.

Order at once, so you will not be disappointed.

Walter P. Nichols, Treasurer

York County Tercentenary Commemorative Coin Ass'n
Address: York National Bank, Saco, Maine

Advertisements were aplenty for commemorative half dollars in 1936, and this page from the "The Numismatist" presents offerings for the Albany and York County issues. Note that quantity discounts were in effect for the York pieces, a common practice to insure bulk orders. As it happened, both the Albany and York commissions had unsold coins on hand for several years after 1936.

WALTER P. NICHOLS

United States Coins and Paper Money

212 WEST EMERSON STREET

MELROSE MASS

Sept. 25, 1936

Mr. Glea L. Rand,
Plymouth, N.H.

Dear Mr. Rand;

I received your letter regarding the Cinn. coins this morning and was very pleased to hear from you.

I had a letter from Mr. Orcutt about the 11th of the month asking if I had a set of these coins and the price. He said he was in the market, so I wrote to him on the 15th, and told him I had a few sets and the price was \$45.00, but the demand was very big, and that I must know at once if he wanted to have a set. He wrote to me on the 17th, telling me that you were the person that wanted a set and that you were away on a vacation and would return shortly, and asked me to hold one set for you. I have kept this set for you, and the price is \$45.00, but if you do not want this set it is alright with me, as I have sold seven sets this month for \$50.00 and the price is going up all of the time and they are getting harder to find. This set of coins will be selling for \$100.00 one of these days.

Please do not feel that you have to take this set just because I have kept it for you, for I still have orders for them at fifty dollars, on the other hand if you do want it, I will sell it to you for what I promised.

Thanking you for past favors and hoping to hear from you at once, I am

Sincerely,

Walter P. Nichols

If there are any other coins that you are looking for I would be pleased to hear from you. I have most of the commemorative half dollars in stock, altho, there is a big demand for them and they move very fast.

11-24

*Plymouth N. H.
9/28/36*

*Dear Mr. Nichols,
I am enclosing my check for \$45.00
for the set of Cinn. Coins. Please mail them,
Thanking you,
Glea L. Rand*

HAVEN'S CANDY KITCHEN
Five Hundred Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine

September 8, 1936

Dear Walter:

Not remembering your bank connection in Biddeford I am sending this letter to your summer place. Inasmuch as Walter H. Rich is a fine friend of mine and the artist, I should like one of the coins for sentimental reasons. Enclosed find check for \$1.65.

I understood you to say before I went with you that day to see Rich that you informed your committee it would cost them for an artist in New York \$800 to \$1,000. I feel Rich was more considerate with his charges. Hope that in consideration of his charge you have not forgot to send him one of these coins. Have not seen Rich for some time but expect to in a day or so.

Your meteorite has been sent to Washington for determination. I really think they will write back it is a piece of slag or clinker.

Regards to Faith.

Sincerely, H.M.W. Haven

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Boston Numismatic Society sent Sept. 20, 1936)

The Society will meet at 6:30 p.m. on September 28, 1936 at Boston City Club, Room O.

Mr. Nichols will talk on "How A Commemorative Half Dollar is Issued."

Please use the return post card.

Morgan H. Stafford, Secretary

* * *

CHARLES J. KNABENSCHUH
212 Grafton Avenue
San Francisco, Cal.

September 19, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

1936 pennies are now available. Will make you a price of \$2.00 per 100 or \$30.00 for sack of 2,000. I think this is same price as I gave you before. I am enclosing stamps for air mail reply.

Do you want any 1936 nickels? These you may have for 7c each.

Hope you are not so busy now since the York County half dollars rush. I am,

Sincerely,
Charles J. Knabenschuh

If price was cheaper than quoted now for pennies, the lowest price goes.

* * *

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Plymouth, New Hampshire

September 24, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have just returned from my vacation and found on my desk a letter from Mr. E.E. Orcutt informing me that you could supply me with a set of the Cincinnati coins. I was notified when the coins were ready for distribution and was given the chance of securing a set if I answered the letter within three days. Some way or another the letter was overlooked and I lost my chance.

I have learned that the price of the set has advanced at a rapid pace until it has reached the price of around \$35.00.

Please let me know what you can do for me.

Thanking you, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
Glea L. Rand, Postmaster

* * *

WALTER P. NICHOLS
212 West Emerson Street
Melrose, Mass.

September 25, 1936

Mr. Glea L. Rand
Plymouth, N.H.

Dear Mr. Rand:

I received your letter regarding the Cincinnati coins this morning and was very pleased to hear from you.

I had a letter from Mr. Orcutt about the 11th of the month asking if I had a set of these coins and the price. He said he was in the market, so I wrote to him on the 15th, and told him I had a few sets and the price was \$45.00, but the demand was very big, and that I must know at once if he wanted to have a set. He wrote to me on the 17th telling me that you were the person that wanted a set and that you were away on vacation and would return shortly, and asked me to hold one set for you. I have kept this set for you and the price is \$45.00, but if you do not want this set it is alright with me, as I have sold seven sets this month for \$50.00 and the price is going up all of the time and they are getting harder to find. This set of coins will be selling for \$100.00 one of these days.

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Thanking you for past favors am hoping to hear from you at once, I am,
Sincerely,

Walter P. Nichols

P.S. If there are any other coins that you are looking for I would be pleased to hear from you. I have most of the commemorative half dollars in stock, although there is a big demand for them and they move very fast.

(Reproduction of footnote from Glea Rand to Walter P. Nichols)
Plymouth, N.H.

September 28, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am enclosing my check for \$45.00 for the set of Cincinnati coins. Please mail above. Thanking you,
Glea L. Rand

* * *

Elgin Centennial Commemorative Half Dollars

A Limited Issue of 25,000.

All From One Mint and One Date.

The Elgin Centennial Committee have appointed me their agent to distribute their coins.

Those having sent their orders in early will be taken care of first, providing they forward their checks to me immediately.

It is the desire of the Committee to take care of the collectors and the citizens of Illinois first. The dealers will be allowed a reasonable number to take care of their regular trade.

The Price Has Been Set At \$1.50 Per Coin, Plus Postage and Insurance.

This price will be maintained. No coins sold for less.

L. W. HOFFECKER
P. O. Box 75, El Paso, Texas.

San Diego Cal. Pac. Int. Expo. 1936-D Comm. Half Dollar

ADVANCE PRICE \$1.50 EACH POSTPAID

ORDER NOW.

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

1935 Issue Reduced to 70,000—Less Than 100 Left.

New Price \$2.25 Each Postpaid.

Notice to Dealers—Do Not Cut This Price—No More Left.
All Orders Filled Promptly—Send Cash With Order.

Will Trade a Few 1935's For Other 1935-36 Issues.
Make Offer of What You Have.

BRUCE L. WALLACE, Numismatist

1230 Fifth Ave., San Diego, Calif.

Among the many issues appearing in 1936 were the Elgin and San Diego issues, advertised here in the September issue of "The Numismatist." L.W. Hoffecker earlier distributed the 1935 Old Spanish Trail half dollars, an offering which sold out quickly. The Elgin pieces were slow sellers, and eventually 5,000 pieces were returned to the Philadelphia Mint for melting. Hoffecker, who later became president of the American Numismatic Association, was in the forefront of the campaign against commemorative half dollar abuses. He made several trips to Washington, talked with legislators, and introduced a resolution providing guidelines for future issues. As it happened, the entire idea of commemoratives was in general disfavor by that time, so few new authorizations were made after the 1936 year.

D.T. Anderson
1226 Dominion Ave.
Pasadena, Cal.
Sept. 29, 1936
Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your very fine letter received this a.m.

I am convinced of the fact that you must be a pretty darn good sort of a fellow, in spite of the fact that I missed out on several good pieces you had a while back.

I am glad to note that you do have some 31-S. Now is the time to buy them and put them away. I have dealers crying over my shoulder for the 09-S VDB cent, after I had offered them for sale at prices too ridiculous to mention, just a year ago.

I know one party who claims he has 700 Uncirculated for sale at \$33.00 per hundred. Not bad at all.

I would have accepted your offer willingly, if you had mentioned it to me a week ago (36-P for 36-S) but I made an exchange with a dealer by name of Evanson up in Dedham, Mass. He purchased 1800 36-S from me.

If you don't think you have enough of the 36-S mints, I will give you up to 1,000 at 1½¢ each if you pay postage. What could be fairer?

Yes, I would be glad to have you mail me that 13-D, ten 16-D, and 15-29-D with prices attached and for same I will give you dates you need at prices just as fair as yours. If I should happen to be out of certain dates, you can be sure I will supplement them with dates that I have plenty of prior to 1930. In other words I will be honest in my exchange with you.

Let's get the ball a rolling.

Sincerely,
Friend Anderson
Of course I will give you Uncirculated 31-S in exchange should you need them. When I land those 08-S and 09-S, will notify you at once.

* * *

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N
312 United Bank Building
Cincinnati, Ohio
October 1, 1936
My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks very much indeed for your nice letter of September 28, from which we note that the Cincinnati coins in Insured parcel No. 2055 reached you in good shape. We were really quite worried about it as about 35 or 40 sets were lost in the mails.

Of course we will receive payment for these at the issue price, but that doesn't solve the problem, as everyone insists upon receiving the coins and not a rebate of their money. If we have to go out into the open market and pay \$35.00 or more for Cincinnati sets we will go down to the suspension bridge and jump into the Ohio River, or something like that!!

I am so glad that you had a splendid sale of the York county coins. Mine arrived in good shape and have been placed in my various collections. All of the members of our local numismatic association, of which the writer is one of the Board of Governors, were pleased with their York County half dollars.

As you say, if anyone thinks it is an easy matter to distribute a commemorative coin they better try it on their own piano. We had seven stenographers and three clerks in order to take care of our tremendous correspondence. Unfortunately all the Cincinnati sets have been distributed. There are none left. If we had even one set we would be glad to let you have it at the issue price. Sorry.

Cordially yours,
Thomas G. Melish, President

* * *

COLUMBIA SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Columbia, South Carolina
October 5, 1936

Dear Sir:

We appreciate your interest in the Columbia Sesqui-Centennial commemorative coins and regret that the tremendous number of orders has necessitated some delay in their delivery.

When these coins were issued by the United States Mint, it was upon the pledge of the Sesqui-Centennial Commission that they would receive the widest distribution possible and become authentic parts of coin collections throughout the country.

With this pledge in mind the Commission has exerted every effort to be fair to every purchaser, though this has occasioned considerable work for the Commission and has resulted in some delay. Our earnest desire is to keep these coins out of the hands of speculators.

We appreciate your patience and know that you will agree with us that it was better to make it possible for bona fide collectors to secure these coins without having to pay a prohibitive price for them.

At the time applications were accepted, the Commission reserved the right to limit the number of coins, as would subsequently become expedient, and it is necessary that this right be exercised.

Yours very truly,
James H. Hammond, Chairman

* * *

D.T. ANDERSON
1226 Dominion Ave.
Pasadena, Cal.
October 20, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Please excuse me for being on your heels so much about coins (insignificant pennies) which probably mean little or nothing in your extensive dealing, but since I am interested in minor coins, I would be pleased to acquire your 13-D and 16-D which you have on hand.

I note you are interested in 31-S, 08-S, 09-S and the early S mint dates Uncirculated.

Write your own ticket what you want and I will be pleased to supply you for the ten 16-D and one or more 13-D Uncirculated.

I happened to land 5 08-S Indian for 48¢ each circulated; 6 09-S Indian at 60¢ each circulated; 25 31-S 15¢ each circulated; 25 31-S 50¢ each Uncirculated; 40 09-S 12½¢ each plain; 4 09-S 25¢ each plain Very Fine; 4 09-S 30¢ each VDB; 4 09-S 45¢ each VDB Very Fine; 20 31-D 7½¢ each; 100 32-D 6¢ each Uncirculated; 100 30-S 6¢ each Uncirculated and 10 14-D 30¢ each.

All the early S mints in an Uncirculated condition, if you desire.

Very glad to have you make shipment, and I will send you anything you wish to equal your charges. I have enough 29-D.

Friend Anderson

* * *

Cincinnati
Musical Center Commemorative Coin Ass'n

OFFICE OF
THOMAS G. MELISH, PRESIDENT
312 UNITED BANK BUILDING
PHONE MAIN 4123

CINCINNATI, OHIO

October 1, 1936

Mr. Walter P. Nichols
212 W. Emerson St.
Melrose, Mass.

My dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks very much indeed for your nice letter of September 28, from which we note that the Cincinnati coins in insured parcel #2055 reached you in good shape. We were really quite worried about it as about 35 or 40 sets were lost in the mails.

Of course we will receive payment for these at the issue price, but that doesn't solve the problem, as everyone insists upon receiving the coins and not a rebate of their money. If we have to go out into the open market and pay \$35.00 or more for Cincinnati sets we will go down to the Suspension Bridge and jump into the Ohio river, or something like that!!

I am so glad that you had a splendid sale of the York county coins. Mine arrived in good shape and have been placed in my various collections. All of the members of our local Numismatic Association, of which the writer is one of the Board of Governors were pleased with their York county half dollars.

As you say, if anyone thinks it is an easy matter to distribute a commemorative coin they better try it on their own piano. We had seven stenographers and three clerks in order to take care of our tremendous correspondence. Unfortunately all the Cincinnati sets have been distributed. There are none left, if we had even one set we would be glad to let you have it at the issue price. Sorry.

Cordially yours,

CINCINNATI MUSICAL CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ASS'N.



THOMAS G. MELISH, President

TGM:GTW

Controversial among 1936 commemorative half dollars were the Cincinnati coins distributed by Thomas G. Melish. Although the issue was ostensibly "sold out" immediately, certain Cincinnati people, Melish among them, just happened to have some extra sets on hand at a later time. The above correspondence deviates from the actual situation. There was honor among commemorative distributors however, and even in "sold out" situations Walter P. Nichols was often able to obtain a few desired sets from the issuing commissions.

The Lighter Side of Commemoratives

The obverse of the new Wisconsin half dollar pictures a badger. It seems regrettable that various other issues, notorious for their powers of multiplying dates and mint marks, failed to picture a guinea-pig.

Geographical Note: The Oregon Trail (in case you don't know it) leads from Philadelphia to Denver to San Francisco, and back again.

Wouldn't it be a great idea to propose a half dollar commemorating the exploits of David Harum? Almost any commission now operating is eminently qualified to handle its distribution!

How about a half dollar commemorating the founding of the Atlanta penitentiary?

A centennial celebration is, after all, a birthday party. And isn't it queer when a birthday party lasts three years? It would seem to indicate that the host is doggone hungry.

Commemorative half dollars were an appetizing series—until certain commissions made "mints' meat" of the situation!

Many a State and city enjoyed an admirable reputation—until it began celebrating it!

Soon we'll be spelling it "Buy-Centennial."

In the old days, commemorative coins were sold at the fair grounds. Now they're sold on unfair grounds.

If Daniel Boone were alive today, he could learn plenty about trapping.

The NRA was dissolved too soon. Commemorative coin commissions need a Code Authority. But, to think the matter over twice, perhaps this would interfere unlawfully with the "rugged individualism" of the distributors.

The designs of our recent commemoratives have not been truly symbolic. They haven't reflected the spirit of their sponsors. We suggest that forthcoming designers work the following objects into their sketches:

1. A stock-ticker.
2. A bust of "Al" Capone.
3. A sawed-off shot-gun.

There's not much danger of commemorative half dollars being counterfeited these days. It's so much simpler to apply to Congress and get out an issue of your own.

CHARLES M. PRAGER.
Member Baltimore Coin Club.

Charles M. Prager, a member of the Baltimore Coin Club, took pen in hand and expressed his views concerning commemorative half dollars. His tongue-in-cheek commentary undoubtedly reflected the sentiment of many other collectors of the time.

BOOKS
GLASS
INDIAN
RELICS



GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP. OLD COINS

LARGE CENTS • HALF CENTS • COMMEMORATIVE GOLD AND SILVER
109 EMPIRE STREET • PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND

BOUGHT
AND
SOLD

HORACE M. GRANT
NUMISMATIST

SPECIAL NOTICE

Rhode Island History Repeats Itself in Columbia, S. C.

Mr. Grant has just received information that the Columbia Sesqui-Centennial half dollars were placed on sale in the City of Columbia, S. C. to-day. The citizens of Columbia will have the opportunity first, to purchase as many of the coins as they desire. the balance, if any, will be used to fill mail orders.

Mr. Grant is now on his way to Columbia and hopes to purchase enough of these coins from the citizens of that city to take care of his several hundred customers.

This set of half dollars has been issued from all three mints. There are only eight thousand sets, and the citizens have first choice. This seems to be a repetition of the sale of the Rhode Island coins, and only a few sets will be left for the real collectors throughout the country. Mr. Grant will do everything he can to obtain the coins at as low a price as possible. In his opinion, the price of the Columbias will run an even race with the Cincinnati's, which are now selling at from \$42.00 to \$50.00 per set. He will endeavor to purchase a sufficient number so that you can place your order with us at \$17.50 per set.

Each order as received by us, either by mail or over the counter, will be numbered and show the date and hour received. Shipments will be made accordingly. Preference will be given to all orders accompanied by money order or certified check.

Mr. Grant's help in obtaining the Rhode Island and the Lynchburg coins was greatly appreciated by hundreds of collectors all over the United States, who would have paid a much higher price for them if it had not been for his efforts in their behalf.

REMEMBER—First orders received with certified checks or money orders will be the first orders to be filled. The large amount of money required to finance this issue, makes it necessary for us to request cash with orders.

PRICE—\$17.50 per set of three. Don't wait for the fifty dollar price which we feel sure will eventually come. Orders accepted contingent upon our ability to purchase. This price cancels price quoted in November Numismatist.

GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP.

Wilna B. Mackintosh, Secretary.

October 27, 1936.

Horace Grant was right in the middle of the 1936 commemorative boom, and while he was widely criticized for his actions in the Rhode Island half dollars distribution, his correspondence and circulars (one of which is reproduced above) ignore this. Indeed, he continually reminded people how he was a friend of the collector!

(Reproduction of circular notice from Horace M. Grant)

ANOTHER
COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR
FROM
ARKANSAS

Bearing the profile of
SENATOR JOSEPH T. ROBINSON

Designed by Miss Enid Bell, Sculptress of Union City, N.J.

Twenty-five thousand, all from Philadelphia Mint, delivery expected on or about December 31st, 1936.

It is expected that the citizens of Arkansas will purchase a great many of this issue.

I am accepting orders at \$2.35 each, with the understanding that refund will be made should any unusual condition arise whereby the coins could not be furnished at this price.

Date of orders recorded and delivery to be made accordingly. Please do not delay.

COLUMBIA, S.C.

I have made two special trips to Columbia and regardless of all of the time and money spent, do not know what it is all about. The coins have been in Columbia for the past five or six weeks and no one outside of the Committee seems to know why delivery has not started, and they won't tell. Between sixty and seventy thousand dollars has been received by the Committee from collectors and dealers. The entire issue of twenty-five thousand at two dollars each, is but fifty thousand dollars, and the cost of the issue but twenty-five thousand three hundred dollars. How long will the collectors put up with the kind of treatment handed out to them by the Rhode Island, the Kentucky and the Columbia Commissions. Members of the ANA won't you write to President Clarke, urging him to request the ANA Legislative Committee to present a new bill at the next session of Congress, making it necessary for any commission desiring half dollars to have fifty thousand coins issued at one time and all from one mint. Further, that no issue can be carried over to another year. We love our hobby, but it will not live if a few grasping speculators are to continue the hardships of 1936.

LONG ISLAND HALF DOLLARS

Now is the time to buy the Long Island half dollars. I understand that forty thousand of this issue are to be melted soon. My price for a limited time only \$1.75 each.

HORACE M. GRANT
109 Empire Street Providence, R.I.

* * *

ROANOKE COLONY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION OF MANTEO
Manteo, North Carolina

November 9, 1936

Dear Sir:

Latest information from Washington concerning the issue of Sir Walter Raleigh-Virginia Dare commemorative coins is to the effect that they will be struck within about 30 days. All will be from the Philadelphia Mint.

The price has been set at \$1.50 each plus postage and registration. Order blanks containing full particulars will be mailed within the next few days.

Sincerely,
D.B. Fearing, Chairman

* * *

THE TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Dallas, Texas

November 12, 1936

Dear Walter:

The Pierpont Morgan National Bank of Commerce notes in Uncirculated condition are very common, for the simple reason that about two years ago about a hundred thousand 5, 10 and 20 were turned up in the Chase National Bank of New York. At that time I secured a couple of sets and since then a number of others have drifted in like yours.

However, Walter, I am spending them and marking our account balanced. Just be kind enough to keep your eye open for some of the items I might need. Like Mr. Grinnell, I am willing to pay a good premium for things I do not have, or for the scarce things I need in duplicate. These cut sheets of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston are all very desirable for trading purposes, and if you run on to any others I will be glad if you will notify me. I probably have paid higher premiums than Mr. Grinnell for these things.

Glad you are through with your commemorative coin business. Am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting next year. Am hoping it will be in the East.

Sincerely,
W.A. Philpott, Jr., Secretary

* * *

LITTLECOTE STAMP SHOPPE, INC.

249 Genesee Street

Utica, New York

November 13, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Have just been reading this month's issue of the Numismatist and note with great interest an article regarding your experience in connection with the issue of the York County Maine Tercentenary half dollars that you talked on at the Boston Society Meeting.

I have always wanted to know how a commemorative issue was accomplished and wonder if you can furnish me with a copy of your address including the whole issue from its inception. I will gladly pay you for this information if you have to have a copy made.

Awaiting your reply I am,

Very truly yours,
W. Earl Hamlin, Treasurer

* * *

1587-1937

Roanoke Colony Memorial Association
of Manteo

For the Celebration of the 350th Anniversary of Sir Walter Raleigh's Colony on
Roanoke Island and the Birth of Virginia Dare, First White Child of English
Parentage to be Born on the American Continent

Executive Offices:

Manteo, N. C.

D. B. FEARING
GEN'L. CHAIRMAN
ROY L. DAVIS
HONORARY PRES.
D. V. MEEKINS
VICE PRESIDENT
R. B. ETHERIDGE
VICE PRESIDENT
T. S. MEEKINS
VICE PRESIDENT
M. L. DANIELS
VICE PRESIDENT
I. P. DAVIS
VICE PRESIDENT

M. R. DANIELS
SECRETARY
C. S. MEEKINS
TREASURER
R. B. DRANE
HISTORIAN

Nov. 9, 1936

Dear Sir:

Latest information from Washington concerning the issue
of Sir Walter Raleigh-Virginia Dare commemorative coins
is to the effect that they will be struck within about
30 days. All will be from the Philadelphia mint.

The price has been set at \$1.50 each plus postage and regis-
tration. Order blanks containing full particulars will be
mailed within the next few days.

Sincerely,
Roanoke Colony Memorial Ass'n.

D. B. Fearing
Chairman.

L.F.mwp

This November 1936 letter gives information concerning the Roanoke commemorative half dollar, one of the later issues of the era.

(Article in "The Numismatist"—November 1936)

"BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY—Meeting of September 28. The society held its usual dinner and regular monthly business meeting at the Boston City Club, with ten members and one guest present, President Davis presiding...

"Mr. Nichols spoke on 'How a Commemorative Half Dollar Is Issued,' relating in a highly instructive and interesting manner his experiences in connection with the issuing of the York County (Maine) Tercentenary commemorative half dollar, in which, as treasurer of the association having the matter in charge, he had a conspicuous part from its inception. He told of the origin of the idea, the problem of financing, placing it before Congress and its approval by that body and the President; of the artist's fine work, the preparation of casts, and the routing required on the part of the Treasury Department; of the final acceptance by the Fine Arts Commission and the quick action needed and taken to have the minting done in Philadelphia in order to have the coins ready for distribution within the short time allowed, and of the final and highly successful conclusion of the whole matter. He referred appreciatively of the fine spirit of cooperation everywhere shown, from Maine participants to the officials in Washington and Philadelphia. He emphasized the point that the piece is distinctively a Maine product throughout, up to the point where the Federal authorities entered into the picture. At the conclusion of his talk Mr. Nichols was bombarded with questions, and was tendered a vote of thanks for his splendid exposition of the many intricacies involved in producing a commemorative half dollar.

"Exhibits were as follows:

"Mr. Nichols: Drawings, casts, documents and sundry papers covering his talk, and a sample of the York County commemorative half dollar.

"Dr. Steinberg: A set of three Bridgeport commemorative half dollars in a case, and eight United States pattern pieces in silver and bronze, in denominations of twenty cents, ten cents and one cent, for the years 1869, 1874 and 1885, respectively.

"Mr. Gifford: Insignia of the Society of Colonial Governors, a diamond-studded cross of the Legion of Honor, 1870."

* * *

COMMUNITY NATURAL GAS COMPANY

1915 Wood Street
Dallas, Texas

November 28, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have been a little confused on your auction. You wrote under date of November 11 stating that you had received bids of \$37.50 for the Cincinnati set so I bought a set locally. I also bid \$7.75 for lot 32 (3 Bridgeport) and since you wanted them separately I figured you wanted to sell only one coin at the time. This was also true on Lot No. 23 where I bid \$8.25 each.

I will buy the Cincinnati set if you cannot sell it elsewhere but want only one of the 1936 Oregon S at \$8.25 and one Bridgeport at \$2.80.

I am sure sorry that I was confused over the auction as I am only a collector and want only one of each coin for my collection. I do not care for duplicates.

Hoping to hear from you soon relative to this, I am,

Very truly yours,
Thomas C. Bain

Ed. Note: In later years Thomas Bain, often as a comrade to Amon G. Carter, Jr., attended ANA and other conventions and was active in the field of paper money.

* * *

WALTER P. NICHOLS
212 West Emerson Street
Melrose, Mass.

December 1, 1936

Mr. J.F. Carabin
434 Considine Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Carabin:

I have your letter enclosing your check, in payment of the coins purchased at my auction, I wish to thank you for the check, and hope that you will find the coins satisfactory.

You also bid on Lot 50, and while I sold one to another party, I find that I have an extra one of this date, so am sending it to you, and as your bid was \$2.91 on this item, I would ask you to please send me your check for that amount, or if you do not care for the coins, you can of course send it back to me.

I still have four sets of the Cincinnati coins on hand. There does not seem to be any call for them right now, maybe later. I did sell three sets when they first came out at fair prices, but since I purchased the last lot, guess the bottom has dropped out of the market.

Hoping that we may do business with each other again, I am,

Sincerely,
Walter P. Nichols

(Reproduction of Mr. Carabin's footnote to Walter P. Nichols' letter)

Received coins today and they were O.K. I am returning the 1886 coin as I have since purchased another copy. I don't think there is any truth to the 2000 Cincinnati set heard that Schultz is supposed to have. He does have quite a number but he purchased them from tellers etc., who had a set. He doesn't have over 100 sets, however Melish gave only one set to a purchaser but of course there are ways to get more, Melish himself is buying them and so even he didn't hoard any. I traded three more sets yesterday to a western dealer for \$120 worth of commemoratives. Hence, I wouldn't be interested in giving 3 sets of Cincinnati for a set of rare Boones. I would trade two sets of Cincinnati for one set of Boones, but no more. What will you offer in 1936-S Oregons and Lynchburgs for a set of Cincinnati? Why are Lynchburg coins scarce anyway? Also have a genuine Grant star strictly Uncirculated and several Missouri sets that I have been holding for good trades. Have you any 1921 Pilgrim?

Sincerely,
J.F. Carabin

* * *

COLUMBIA SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Columbia, South Carolina

December 7, 1936

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your recent inquiry regarding your order for the Columbia Sesqui-Centennial commemorative half dollar.

We beg to advise that your order is on file in this office and will receive proper attention. It is hoped that distribution of the coins will take place some time in the near future.

Thanking you for your order and your continued patience in this matter, we are,

Yours very truly,
James H. Hammond, Chairman

* * *

1677. $\frac{1}{4}$ kreuzer, 1811. Obv., crowned shield of arms with arms of Austria in middle shield, date at sides. Rev., 1 | VIERTEL KREUZER.
 1678. $\frac{1}{2}$ kreuzer, 1810-11. Obv., similar to last. Rev., $\frac{1}{2}$ | KREUZER, crossed palm branches below.

(Concluded.)

New York Numismatic Gossip

By Our New York
Correspondent

During the month there took place in New York two events of importance to its clubs. One was the third anniversary meeting of the Bronx Coin Club, the other the second Metropolitan Coin Convention, which has just begun at the date of this writing. The members of the Bronx Coin Club feel justly proud of the large attendance of seventy-seven at their birthday dinner. With the exception of last year's metropolitan convention, the turnout was the greatest of any New York numismatic gathering held this decade. As for exhibits and enjoyment, they were there in abundance. Considerable amusement was afforded by Miss Dorothy Mosher's original idea for place cards, these having been tailored to fit each individual. Arthur W. Deas, his place card showing an automatic toaster for inspiration, did a fine job in the role of toastmaster. Interesting things about coins and coin collectors were the subject of the talk given by the genial Moritz Wormser.

A large number of metropolitan club members gathered at Radio City on Saturday, November 14, to install their exhibits. These included U. S., State and fractional currency, a U. S. type set, a few quarter eagles and gold dollars, and pattern and pioneer coins. As the exhibit was held in the British Empire Building, Great Britain was represented by British orders and decorations and a series of crowns. Other foreign coins exhibited were a large series of Italian crowns, a set of Danish and Norwegian coins and a number of Russian pieces. A complete set of Chinese Gordon bills were also to be seen. Special exhibits were made of Indian peace medals, medals of Admiral Dewey Bryan money and Leshner pieces, and philately in numismatics. There were also several fine representative collections of ancient coins.

The Morganthau auction sale will take place on Thursday and Friday of convention week. The Stack and Elder sales took place earlier in the month. It seems as though commemorative halves were waning in interest; the famous 1914 Boones reached a new low of \$55 for the pair at the Stack sale. On the other hand, ancients seem to be gaining considerable popularity, there being spirited competition in bidding for them. Maybe a new factor in this bidding is from the direction of Brooklyn, where President Deagler is emulating Mr. Stein of the Bronx, in reading a paper on ancient coins each month. In November he told about Nero and his playful methods of assuming opposition. Nero gave preference to poison and stabbing. Mr. Deagler's topic for December will be Tiberius Caesar.

We heard that Mr. Schultz of Cincinnati, was in town recently with the information that the speculators had been kept out of the Cincinnati half market. We also saw that the commission in Columbia was checking up on speculators before delivering any of their coins, which they have had for over a month. "Make 'em mint's" meat gave them a headache! Then there is the story about a New York dealer who obtained the entire new Arkansas 1899, and was advertising it for sale just as Mr. Mehl did last year. As for the New Rochelle coin, local people are being kept almost as much in the dark about it as out-of-town collectors. This week our movie program carries the information that a film of Daniel Boone is to be shown on a double date, Thursday and Friday; at the same time, there is talk about the distribution of the Boone coins having another two thousand pieces more. Is this of any significance to that number? Where will the whole commemorative half dollar question end and what effect will President Roosevelt's reelection have on the subject?

"New York Numismatic Gossip," a feature which appeared regularly in "The Numismatist" during the 1936 period, gave a hint of the slackening of the boom, noting: "It seems as though commemorative half dollars were waning in interest" and "a new low of \$55 for the 1935 Denver and San Francisco pair of Boone half dollars with small '1934' in the field."

COLUMBIA SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Columbia, South Carolina

December 7, 1936

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your recent communication relative to the Columbia Sesqui-Centennial commemorative half dollar.

This is to advise that as yet NO COINS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ANYONE, COLLECTOR OR DEALER, COLUMBIANS INCLUDED.

The delay in the delivery of coins has been occasioned by the fact that a thorough analysis of every individual order is necessary to determine whether the order is for collection purpose and not for speculation. It has been the hope of this commission to get the coins in the hands of every collector possible with an issue limited to 25,000 coins.

No definite distribution date has yet been determined. However, it is hoped that delivery may begin within the very near future.

Thanking you in advance for your continued patience, we are,

Very truly yours,
James H. Hammond, Chairman

* * *

EARL COATSWORTH

914 Broadway

East McKeesport, Pa.

December 10, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It seems very pleasant to be writing you again. Although our correspondence has fallen off, I have often wondered how things have been with you. I was glad to see your activity in the distribution of the York half dollar and your recent advertisement in The Numismatist. I had thought that you might have given up active collecting.

I have not been very active in collecting since last summer, due to unfortunate circumstances. When we came home from our vacation trip, Mrs. Coatsworth went to the hospital for an operation, then we gave up our home for several months while she recuperated at her mother's home. She is feeling fine now, but I have been under the weather for about six weeks. The doctors say I must give up my tonsils before I can be really healthy again. So I have that to look forward to one of these days.

Our local coin club is going along about as before. We do not have programs which accomplish much numismatically, but I hope to stir things up in this direction before long. However, you will notice, from the write-ups in The Numismatist that we do have a number of collectors who are able to exhibit some really fine items.

Our mutual friend, Mr. Hall, is still collecting medals, and at the present time is much interested in Washington and Lincoln medals, tokens and store cards. The thought comes to me that if you have anything in this line which you care to sell or trade, you might write him, as he is acquiring quite a nice series and contacts most dealers who can offer something to his interest.

Although I have intended to write you a more or less sociable letter for some time, I am prompted to write you at this time due to the fact that recently I have obtained six of the commemorative gold dollars, and since I have the two quarter-eagles, I wish to complete this series with the remaining three dollars. I need the 1904 and 1905 Lewis & Clarke, and the 1917 McKinley piece. If you happen to have any of these in duplicate, I shall be pleased to take same on any basis you may suggest, to square our accounts. I realize that this suggestion is not consistent with our original arrangements, that is, I was the one to furnish the gold. I trust you consider this as just a suggestion and not that I am pressing you. I want you to suit yourself entirely in the matter.

I have not added the last few commemorative half dollars to my set, as I am determined to give them up if the next Congress continues the indiscriminate release of them as in the past. If, however, some sensible plan is adopted, I can go back for the few pieces I need.

I shall be very pleased to hear from you again, and hope you are disposed to answer soon. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy good health and good fortune in numismatics.

Yours very truly,
Earl Coatsworth

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard sent by C. Frank Dunn December 15, 1936)

Answering yours 10th, have received a daily deluge of mail about the 2,000 coins. They were merely supplemental to the 10,000 Philadelphia 1936 issued early this year. Whenever I have any new coins, I advertise them in The Numismatist. Expect to be able to advertise some 1937 coins by the February Numismatist, but will take no advance orders until the ad comes out.

Yours very truly,
C. Frank Dunn

* * *

STACK'S

690 Sixth Avenue
New York, New York

December 28, 1936

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 24. We can supply you with the following coins that you need:

1804 Large cent, very good condition, date very sharp, \$15.00; 1797 half cent, fine condition \$5.00; 1794 half dime, fair condition, \$5.00; 1795 half dime, in good condition \$3.50.

These are the only dates from your list that we can supply you with.

If you can wait until we hold our auction sale for which you no doubt have received our catalogue, you will find practically everything you ask for.

Please do not hesitate to call on us if we are able to help you out with any of the coins mentioned above.

Extending to you the Season's Greetings, we remain,

Respectfully yours,
J.B. Stack

* * *

Correspondence from 1937

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MEADVILLE

898 Park Avenue
Meadville, Pa.

January 21, 1937

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have been given the duty of securing information relative to the issuance of a commemorative coin for our Sesquicentennial in 1938 and will be glad to receive any information you may be able to give me on the following points relative to the York County Maine commemorative.

1. Number of coins sold.
2. Prices at which they were sold.
3. The method or methods used for distribution and sales.

Any help that you can give me will be very greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
M.W. Williams, Managing Secretary

Ed. Note: The Meadville project turned out to be another skeleton along the boulevard of broken dreams. Despite information solicited from Walter P. Nichols, the commemorative coin for the Meadville Sesquicentennial never came to pass.

* * *

The Chamber of Commerce of Meadville

Organized in 1807

MEMBER
Chamber of Commerce of the United States
Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce
National Better Business Bureau

898 PARK AVENUE

MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

January 21, 1937

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mr. Walter P. Nichols
York National Bank
Saco, Maine

Dear Mr. Nichols:

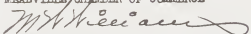
I have been given the duty of securing information relative the issuance of a commemorative coin for our Sesqui-centennial in 1938 and will be glad to receive any information you may be able to give me on the following points relative the York County Maine Commemorative.

1. Number of coins sold.
2. Prices at which they were sold.
3. The method or methods used for distribution and sales.

Any help that you can give me will be very greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

MEADVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE


M. W. Williams
Managing Sec'y

MWW/cc

Although the Chamber of Commerce of Meadville, Pennsylvania did research concerning commemorative coins, their idea was never to come to fruition. During 1936 and 1937 dozens of commemorative ideas died before they were born.

STACK'S
690 Sixth Avenue
New York, New York
January 22, 1937

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your communication at hand.

This is really the first opportunity I have had to write to you. I have been very busy with the distribution of the Arkansas coin. Also there was lots of work attached to the sale.

We are sending you under separate cover, several half dimes, with which we hope you will be satisfied.

In reference to the 3c silver and the 3c nickel, we do not have the dates you want loose, but can supply them to you in complete sets, and in beautiful Proof condition.

Price catalogue will be sent to you within the next few days.

With kind regards, we are,

Respectfully yours,
J.B. Stack

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from John G. Taft sent February 1, 1937)

UNCIRCULATED COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLARS PRICES REVISED TO JANUARY 25th, 1937

1892 Columbian	\$1.00
1892 Columbian Proof	4.25
1921 Alabama	5.50
1921 Alabama 2x2	18.50
1921 Missouri V.F.	18.00
1921 Missouri 2x4	32.00
1922 Grant	2.45
1925 Vancouver	8.50
1934 Oregon	5.50
1934 Texas	1.00
1935 Spanish Trail	5.75
1935 Texas P.D.S.	Set 6.00
1936 Texas P.D.S.	Set 4.75
1936 Arkansas P.D.S.	Set 6.00
1936 Rhode Island P.D.S.	Set 7.00
1936 Oregon P.	3.50
1936 Lynchburg	3.50
1936 Bridgeport	2.35
1936 Cleveland	1.50
1936 Wisconsin	1.50
1936 Long Island	1.00
1936 San Diego	1.50
1936 Elgin	1.80
1936 Oregon "SR"	10.00
1936 Boone P.D.S.	Set 12.50
1936 Arkansas P.D.S.	Set 14.00
1936 Gettysburg (when received)	8.00
1936 Cincinnati P.D.S.	32.50
1936 Columbia S.C. P.D.S.	Set 17.50

JOHN G. TAFT

155-25th Street A.N.A. 5267 Brooklyn, New York

Ed. Note: The preceding price list, February 1, 1937, reflects the market on certain commemorative half dollars at the time.

* * *

COLUMBIA SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Columbia, South Carolina

February 1, 1937

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of January 16 at hand, enclosing our refund check in the amount of \$12.90.

We are sincerely sorry that you have the feeling in regard to the distribution of the coins that we have been unfair. The fact that we hoped, by cutting all orders to three sets, except where we knew that the coins were desired for a number of collectors, was misinterpreted by you. We have handled every order with as much care as was humanly possible and we have made every analysis and every effort to make this one issue of commemoratives that was handled in a fair, just and equitable manner. If we have made errors, it was not because we have not tried to be fair. The Commission has worked unceasingly toward this end.

We had no way of knowing when a dealer or speculator was having his friends file applications for coins which they later turned over to the speculators, though we tried to analyze all orders. The fact that they sent out information that they had plenty of coins with which to fill collectors' orders was a constant source of distress and embarrassment to us, but one we could not avoid.

We are pleased to be able to advise you that we are sending you within a few days the additional two sets of coins which you had ordered for officers of your society. Had we known before we mailed out the coins the purpose for which you desired the coins, we should have sent the order in full.

Please bear with us just a little longer and the coins will be in your hands.

We hope this letter of explanation will clarify the situation in your mind.

Yours very truly,
James H. Hammond, Chairman

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Mrs. C.F. Dunn sent February 9, 1937)

Thanks for order for 5 1937 Boones. There will be delay filling order, as mails have been stacked for 9 days, but they will get to you eventually.

The 1936 coin is the same 1936 issue—this is just the remainder of the 1936 Philadelphia. The 1936-D and 5 sold out last March.

Mrs. C.F. Dunn

* * *

CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

San Diego, Cal.

February 16, 1937

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In order that you may be able to let the various coin clubs and collectors in your district know the number of coins outstanding for the California Pacific International Exposition at San Diego, we send you the following information:

There are outstanding for the 1935 Exposition, 70,000 commemorative coins, par value \$35,000, issued at the San Francisco Mint and selling at the price of \$3.00 per coin.

You will no doubt be interested to learn that we have just secured permission from the United States Treasury Department, authorizing the melting at the San Francisco Mint of 150,000 of the 180,000 issue of 1936 Denver Mint coins, which leaves outstanding for 1936—30,000 coins, par value \$15,000. This makes a total for both 1935 and 1936 100,000 coins. A large number of these coins have been disposed of and are well distributed throughout the United States. We are putting on sale 3,000 of the new 1936 Denver Mint coins at \$3.00 per coin. As only a limited number of these coins are available, the Exposition Committee reserves the right to limit the maximum number of coins which any one person may order, such number in no event to exceed 10. It is hoped that this will prevent speculators from purchasing the available supply and will permit the Committee to fill the orders of those citizens who desire to possess a rare and valuable souvenir of the Exposition.

We hope the above information will prove of interest to you.

Yours very truly,
Emil Klicka, Treasurer

* * *

B. MAX MEHL
Numismatist

IMPORTER OF
AND DEALER IN
RARE COINS
MEDALS AND
PAPER MONEY
OF ALL COUNTRIES
AND DISTRICTS



Fort Worth, Texas

April 6th
of our 37th year
1 9 5 7.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
Melrose, Mass.

My dear Mr. Nichols:-

Appreciate very much your nice letter of the 31st ult. Regret that my comment on the York County Half-Dollar did not meet with your approval, but please remember that in the preface of the booklet I plainly stated that the comments are my own except where I swiped those of others. I do not claim to be correct in all my statements. The opinions expressed are simply my own and they may be right and they may be wrong. I feel that everyone has a right to their opinion as I have to mine and I respect the opinion of everyone.

For instance, note what I think of the Arkansas Half-Dollar, the first issues of which I practically distributed the entire amount. I think it is a horrible monstrosity yet I have received quite a number of letters saying that it is one of the most beautiful coins of the series. In the likes and dislikes of designs of coins, it is no different than the likes and dislikes in other matters. Some of us like to wear red neckties and others like blue, and so it goes. All my comment in the booklet was intended to be good-natured, and no offense was meant toward any of the committees, designers, or the collectors.

Again thanking you for writing me and expressing yourself as you did, and with kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

BMM/NY.

MEMBER

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION - AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF LONDON - CHICAGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

B. Max Mehl corresponded with Walter P. Nichols on numerous occasions. Never willing to be drawn into an argument, Mehl's correspondence with various dealers and collectors—of which the editor has seen much over the years—invariably reflects a sense of diplomacy, as does the letter above.

B. MAX MEHL
Fort Worth, Texas
April 6, 1937

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Appreciate very much your nice letter of the 31st ult. Regret that my comment on the York County half dollar did not meet with your approval, but please remember that in the preface of the booklet I plainly stated that the comments are my own except where I swiped those of others. I do not claim to be correct in all my statements. The opinions expressed are simply my own and they may be right and they may be wrong. I feel that everyone has a right to their opinion as I have to mine and I respect the opinion of everyone.

For instance, note what I think of the Arkansas half dollar, the first issues of which I practically distributed the entire amount. I think it is a horrible monstrosity yet I have received quite a number of letters saying that it is one of the most beautiful coins of the series. In the likes and dislikes of designs of coins, it is no different than the likes and dislikes in other matters. Some of us like to wear red neckties and others like blue, and so it goes. All my comment in the booklet was intended to be good-natured, and of the offense was toward any of the committees, designers, or the collectors.

Again thanking you for writing me and expressing yourself as you did, and with kindest regards,

Cordially yours,
B. Max Mehl

Ed. Note: Ever the diplomat, B. Max Mehl responds delicately to a criticism expressed by Walter P. Nichols about a commentary made in Mehl's booklet on the subject of commemorative half dollars. Although Mehl was very much in the swing of commemorative sales, he frequently expressed displeasure at certain designs, distribution tactics, and other aspects.

* * *

STACK'S
690 Sixth Avenue
New York, New York
April 24, 1937

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Sorry that we did not mail out the prices realized to you sooner, but it was an oversight on our part. Enclosed please find list.

Believe me, when I reach the age of eighty, I never want to look at another commemorative. Until then, if there is money to be made in it, I'll play with them. Otherwise, I will extend the glory to our fellow numismatists.

Believe it or not, we start sending out the new headaches during the coming week.

Don't forget us if you run into any good collections. With kind regards, we are,

Respectfully
J.B. Stack

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from C. Frank Dunn sent May 20, 1937)

ORDER NOW--DON'T WAIT

An ad in June Numismatist will announce: 7,500 Issue, Just Minted, 1937-D MINT, DANIEL BOONE HALF DOLLARS. To be sold coupled with 1937 Phila. at \$7.25 for the TWO, postpaid. NOT SOLD SINGLY--DON'T ASK. Sale NOT limited to one pair. Also, that some weeks later an issue of 7,500 1937 S Mint will be ready at \$5.15 each. Also, selling last of 1936 Phila., \$1.25 each. The Daniel Boone Bic. Com'n hopes with these sales to wind up its coinage.

Send Money Order or Cashier's Check to
C. FRANK DUNN
Phoenix Hotel - Lexington, Ky.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Tatham Stamp & Coin Company sent May 24, 1937)

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We can offer you at this time subject to immediate acceptance and prior sale up to 5 pair of the rare 1935/1934 S and D Boones at \$42 per pair. If you are interested we would suggest that you place your order immediately.

May we please hear from you?

Very truly yours,
Tatham Stamp & Coin Co.

* * *

DANIEL BOONE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Lexington, Kentucky

May 25, 1937

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanking you for your order of the 22nd for the 1937 issues, I am ANXIOUS to get in the orders for the S-Mint, also, now so that there will be no delay in sending them out when they arrive. I do not expect to advertise them again, so am writing to everyone who orders only the P and D couplet, to forward the S Mint order.

However, I want to keep the D and S issues running even, as heretofore, so we will wind up completely when the coins are sold and can proceed at once towards the purchase of the shrines in the Pioneer National Monument, to turn them over to the United States this fall if at all possible.

Please, therefore, either forward \$14.50 more, to make 5 sets of three issues, or reduce the number of S Mint coins to 3 and I will refund you \$10.30.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,
C. Frank Dunn

* * *



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DANIEL BOONE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

PHOENIX HOTEL

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

"An Empire is his sepulchre, His epitaph is Fame."

Commissioners:

SAMUEL M. WILSON, LEXINGTON, CHAIRMAN
J. T. DORRIS, RICHMOND, 1ST VICE-CHAIRMAN
MRS. JOUETT TAYLOR CANNON, FRANKFORT,
2ND VICE-CHAIRMAN
INNES S. ROSS, CARLISLE, TREASURER
C. FRANK DUNN, LEXINGTON, SECRETARY

R. C. BALLARD, THURSTON, LOUISVILLE
LUCIEN RECHNER, LOUISVILLE
MRS. GRANT E. LILLY, RICHMOND
KEEN JOHNSON, RICHMOND
MRS. WALTER P. ROGERS, WINCHESTER
ARTHUR BRADEN, LEXINGTON

W. R. SHACKELFORD, RICHMOND
HARRY B. HACKETT, COVINGTON
A. GORDON SULLER, MARYVILLE
JAMES L. BENDER, HARRISBURG
WM. BOONE DOUGLASS, HONOLULU,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GOVERNOR ~~WALTER P. DUNN~~, Ex-Officio

May 25, 1937.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 Emerson St.,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Mr. Nichols:-

Thanking you for your order of the 22nd for the 1937 issues, I am ANXIOUS to get in the orders for the S-Mint, also, now so that there will be no delay in sending them out when they arrive. I do not expect to advertise them again, so am writing to everyone who orders only the P and D couplet, to forward the S-Mint order.

However, I want to keep the D and S issues running even, as heretofore, so we will wind up completely when the coins are sold and can proceed at once towards the purchase of the shrines in the Pioneer National Monument, to turn them over to the United States this Fall if at all possible.

Please, therefore, either forward \$14.50 more, to make 5 sets of the three issues, or reduce the number of S-Mint coins to 3 and I will refund you \$10.30.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,


C. Frank Dunn.

C. Frank Dunn was one of the most controversial figures of his time, dating from the uproar a few years earlier (in the autumn of 1935) when a limited-edition Boone set was sold out before most numismatists had a chance to place an order. Correspondence in the present volume relates that Dunn had his share of troubles and at one time apparently transferred his business to the name of his wife.

CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
San Diego, Cal.

May 1937

Dear Friend:

The California Pacific International Exposition commemorative half dollar designed by Robert Aitken, New York City, is justly considered to be one of the most beautiful pieces of silver money ever minted by the United States government.

The issue of this half dollar is very limited—a total of 70,000 coins outstanding from the San Francisco Mint in 1935 and 30,000 coins from the Denver Mint in 1936. Due to the constantly increasing number of collectors, these coins will advance steadily in price, as plans are under way to abandon the issuance of future commemorative coins in favor of medallions.

The obverse of the new half dollar shows the seal of the State of California. The reverse pictures the tower and dome of the California building on the exposition grounds. The present day value of the San Diego Exposition coins is certain to increase as time passes. Panama Pacific (San Francisco 1915) half dollars are now selling at the price of \$15.00 each, while Oregon Trail half dollars (1933-1934) are being quoted at \$5.00 to \$10.00 each. Other commemorative silver half dollars are likewise today selling at a price considerably more than that at which they were retailed. The San Diego California Pacific International Exposition commemorative half dollar promises to become an exceedingly valuable specimen.

The coins, as an investment, will increase in value in years to come; as a souvenir, are beautiful and everlasting coins of a world's most beautiful Exposition and as a gift, will be a most welcome and valuable gift for any member of the family.

Probably your last chance to buy Uncirculated San Diego commemorative coins of the California Pacific International Exposition. Our coins are selling rapidly—we urge you order at once! Price \$3.00 each for either 1935 San Francisco Mint or 1936 Denver Mint—THIS PRICE GOOD ONLY TO JUNE 1st, 1937. Make check payable to:

Emil Klicka, Treasurer
California Pacific International Exposition
c/o Bank of America
San Diego, California

"Owners say one of the best Good Luck Coins"

BE LUCKY — OWN ONE!!

REMEMBER: Only 30,000 1936 Denver Mint coins with name "San Diego". Cannot be any more. San Diego city population 160,000—not everyone can own one.

COIN COLLECTORS from all parts of the world buying up coins before supply is exhausted.

If price of coin only \$6.00 in 10 years, would make average 10% per year increase on present price, \$3.00!!

DO NOT BE SURPRISED if coins sell at \$5.00 each before 1938!!

* * *

WAYTE RAYMOND, INC.

580 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
August 31, 1937

Dear Sir:

The 1938 edition of the Standard Catalogue of United States Coins & Currency will go on sale Sept. 27th. This catalogue is not published as a sales list but as a guide to purchasers of U.S. coins and currency. We feel that the continued advance in price of many coins is due to the influence of this book. The editors have tried to reflect the actual present day retail values and no such amount of reliable information has ever before been offered to collectors under one cover. No collector of United States coins can afford to be without it.

As one of our wholesale customers you are entitled to a discount of 40% off the retail price of \$2.50 for which amount this catalogue sells and we hope to be favored with your advance orders for as many copies as you feel you may have a sale for.

Please send your orders to Coin Department of Scott Stamp & Coin Co.,

1 West 47th Street, New York. Prompt shipment will be made to insure a supply on the publication date.

Yours very truly,
Wayte Raymond, Inc.

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas
September 13, 1937

Dear Nichols:

I arrived home safely after a very pleasant time at the convention which you and some of the rest contributed to.

My wife is having a hard time getting me down to earth after being with all your big fellows up there. However she gave it up and left for California this morning for a month.

Had a nice letter from Philpott this morning. He mentioned seeing you in New York City. I mailed you a piece of the "Hachita-de-Cobre." You will notice the dirt is still on it. H. Farner plowed up a lot while I was down there and I bought them from him. They were buried in the graves of the Indians.

I think you will find a history of them in the November 1933 Numismatist.

I hope I may see you next year. But it won't be Rhode Island.

I haven't forgotten the deal they gave us on their coins.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours cordially,
L.W. Hoffecker
Hope you like the Hachita (little hatchet)

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Engraving and Printing
Washington, D.C.

September 24, 1937

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It is gratifying to read in your letter of September 19, 1937 of your enjoyment of the trip through this bureau.

In regard to your desire to obtain an uncut sheet of starred notes, you are advised that this bureau is required to deliver all notes in separated form to the Treasurer of the United States.

Very truly yours,
A.W. Hall, Director

* * *

OFFICERS

G. AUBREY DAVIDSON
Chairman of Board

FRANK G. BELCHER
President

EMIL KLIKA
Treasurer

ROY E. HEGO
Secretary

EXECUTIVES

WAYNE W. DAILARD
Executive Manager

ELWOOD T. BAILEY
Executive Vice-President

FRANK DRUGAN
Executive Secretary

CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

If price of coin only \$6.00 in 10 years, would make average 10% per year increase on present price, \$3.00!!

DO NOT BE SURPRISED if coins sell at \$6.00 each before 1938!!

SAN DIEGO
BALBOA PARK
Phone: Franklin 7731

Dear Friend:

The California Pacific International Exposition commemorative half dollar designed by Robert Aitken, New York City, is justly considered to be one of the most beautiful pieces of silver money ever minted by the United States Government.

The issue of this half dollar is very limited -- a total of 70,000 coins outstanding from the San Francisco mint in 1935 and 30,000 coins from the Denver mint in 1936. Due to the constantly increasing number of collectors, these coins will advance steadily in price, as plans are under way to abandon the issuance of future commemorative coins in favor of medallions.

The obverse of the new half dollar shows the seal of the State of California. The reverse pictures the Tower and Dome of the California Building on the Exposition grounds. The present day value of the San Diego Exposition coins is certain to increase as time passes. Panama Pacific (San Francisco 1915) half dollars are now selling at the price of \$15.00 each, while Oregon Trail half dollars (1933-1934) are being quoted at \$5.00 to \$10.00 each. Other commemorative silver half dollars are likewise today selling at a price considerably more than that at which they were retailed. The San Diego California Pacific International Exposition commemorative half dollar promises to become an exceedingly valuable specimen.

The coins, as an investment, will increase in value in years to come; as a souvenir, are beautiful and everlasting coins of a World's most beautiful Exposition and as a gift, will be a most welcome and valuable gift for any member of the family.

Probably your last chance to buy uncirculated San Diego Commemorative coins of the California Pacific International Exposition. Our coins are selling rapidly--we urge you order at once! Price \$3.00 each for either 1935 San Francisco mint or 1936 Denver Mint -- THIS PRICE GOOD ONLY TO JUNE 1st, 1937. Make check payable to:

Emil Klika, Treasurer
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San Diego, California

"Owners say one of the best Good Luck Coins"
BE LUCKY -- OWN ONE!!

REMEMBER: Only 30,000 1936 Denver mint coins with name "San Diego". Cannot be any more. San Diego city population 160,000--not everyone can own one.

COIN COLLECTORS from all parts of the world buying up coins before supply is exhausted.

This notice tells of forthcoming California Pacific International Exposition half dollars, later known as "San Diego half dollars." Buyers are urged to order before June 1st, 1937, after which prices apparently were scheduled to increase. Note the investment hype at the top and bottom of the letter.

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

October 21, 1937

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have not heard from you since September 19th. Have thought of you many times and presume you had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Philpott while he was in Boston attending the convention. Hope so at least and am sure you would enjoy the time spent with him.

I received a letter from Phil just a day or two before he left saying he expected to return about the 20th, which was yesterday, and would write me at that time and send an order for some of my duplicates to show to some of his friend collectors with a view of selling some of them for me. He has already made fair success during the past few months. Confidentially, I have allowed him a commission of 10% on all the sales he could make and have also allowed this to apply on the purchases for his own collection. As you know, he has a large collection and I have been able to assist him to some extent by supplying him with some very desirable and rare notes which were duplicates of what I had.

It has occurred to me that perhaps you could sell some notes to some of your friend collectors. I am wondering if you would not permit me to send you a small number (25 to 50) \$1.00 and \$2.00 notes of the early issues in Uncirculated condition to show to your friends. I would put them up in small albums convenient to carry in your pocket. I would allow you these notes separately and if you could sell some of them I would allow you a commission of 10%. It would please me very much if you would permit me to send these notes to you and you could settle for what you had sold about once a month.

Trusting this finds you enjoying good health and thanking you in advance for a prompt reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
United States Mint Service
Philadelphia, Pa.

December 1, 1937

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Replying to your inquiry of the 24th of November regarding a 1916 half dollar, I wish to say that the coin which you have described is probably a pattern or experimental piece. Your description conforms with the original sculptor's models which I have in my custody.

The dies for the piece described were destroyed in January 1917.

I can find no record of the number of the experimental pieces struck from this design, but in all probability they were very few. I have never seen one myself.

I did not come to the Mint until August 1917 so have no personal knowledge of the striking of these trial pieces, and there is no one now in my department who was here then.

The sculptor, Mr. Weinman, submitted three variations for the obverse of this half dollar and two for the reverse. Trial dies were made of only two of the obverse and two of the reverse, these were the standard coin in circulation and the one which you have described. Trial or pattern pieces are made to submit to the Treasury officials and sometimes to members of the committee on currency in Congress for final decision as to which should be adopted. As you probably know, there have been many pattern pieces struck since 1793 in this country.

Should I come across any further information on this particular pattern piece, I will send it on to you.

Respectfully,
John R. Sinnock, Engraver

* * *

TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Dallas, Texas

December 1, 1937

Dear Walter:

Yesterday when I was writing you a letter your letter of November 28th was on its way, and I received it this morning. Of course, I was might glad to hear from you.

I am not familiar with the half dollar pattern that you speak of. I expect to be in Fort Worth next week sometime. I will take the drawing with me to show Max Mehl. Any information I can get I will pass it on to you. I suppose you have looked in Adams & Woodin's book of patterns—anyway it stops at 1913.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

W.A. Philpott, Jr., Secretary

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Tatham Stamp & Coin Co. sent December 7, 1937)

Gentlemen:

Can you use a complete set of all U.S. commemorative half dollars in Uncirculated condition for \$310? This includes the 1937 Boones.

May we please hear from you?

Very truly yours,
Tatham Stamp & Coin Co.

* * *

TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Dallas, Texas

December 21, 1937

Dear Walter:

Since receipt of your letter of December 12th I have seen Max Mehl about the pattern half dollar. He says there is a law prohibiting private collectors owning pattern pieces dated since 1894, or somewhere in the '90s. This is news to me, but he says the government could confiscate your half dollar. I did not tell him who had it, or anything about it, but I am giving you this information for what it is worth.

I, too, am very busy with the end of the year and the beginning of the new year. I think very shortly I will have my head out a little bit.

Here's hoping all the good things, joyous and merry, for you and Mrs. Nichols during the Yuletide Season.

Sincerely,

W.A. Philpott, Jr., Secretary

* * *

Correspondence from 1938

THE NUMISMATIST

F.G. Duffield
4215 Fernhill Ave.
Baltimore, Md.
January 6, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for the information on the pattern half dollar. I think it best to omit name of owner in the news item. I omitted it in referring to it in the other two instances.

I don't think you could keep it if government officials located it, and wanted to take it. Patterns have a different status from what they had years ago. They used to be sold at the Mint years ago. Now they are not supposed to leave the Mint. It seems a little odd that four of these should turn up within a year after a lapse of over 20 years.

Very truly yours,
F.G. Duffield, Bus. Mgr.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Oregon Trail Memorial Association sent January 12, 1938)

We acknowledge receipt of your order for five sets of 1938 (P-D-S mint) OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL half dollars, and your remittance of \$31.25 to cover the cost of the same.

The coins will be forwarded to you by insured parcel post as soon as they are available.

Oregon Trail Memorial Association

* * *

(Reproduction of circular)

NORFOLK ADVERTISING BOARD, INC.
Norfolk, Virginia
March 25, 1938

TO ALL NUMISMATISTS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are about to complete the sale of the Norfolk commemorative half dollars and any coins left over may be returned to the mint for cancellation. In view of this we are writing to you to advise that you place your orders now, before it is too late.

If you have previously purchased Norfolk half dollars from us any additional coins ordered now will cost you only \$1.55 instead of \$1.65; our committee has ruled that all purchasers of record are privileged to buy on such basis. Numismatists who have not up to this date bought the Norfolk half dollar may purchase the same through us at \$1.65 for the first coin on the order and \$1.55 for each additional coin.

On all orders of twenty-five (25) or more the price is \$1.50 flat and handling charges, postage or express and insurance fees are borne by us.

No collection of commemoratives is complete without a Norfolk half dollar and we urge you to buy yours now at the extremely low price. Our prediction is that when we have disposed of the coins now on hand the market price will jump to \$3.00 or more.

Very truly yours,
F.E. Turin, Manager

* * *

JOHN ZUG
Bowie, Maryland
April 7, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Replying to your letter of April 5th I do not care to sell the 1794 dollar at \$175. This is about a fair dealer's price for the coin but not more than I paid for it and I do not have enough of them to justify cutting the price.

Very truly yours,
John Zug

Ed. Note: John Zug was a prominent dealer of the 1930s. Louis E. Eliasberg, who went on to gather the only complete collection of United States coins by date and mintmark ever assembled, obtained many items from Zug during this early period, as did other numismatists, including Walter P. Nichols.

* * *

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

April 13, 1938

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of April 9th received and note you are planning on leaving Boston the afternoon of the 18th and will arrive in Detroit on Tuesday morning. Note that you will go direct to the Statler and then go to my office as I had previously suggested. My office is on the fifth floor of the Grinnell Building and you will find Mr. Draper there and he will be very glad to see you and visit with you during the forenoon. Mr. Draper usually goes to luncheon about 11:30 and he will be glad to have you take luncheon with him. I usually get here about 12:30 and we could then make our plans for seeing the collection. I think it will require about two afternoons, from 1:00 to 4:00, to look that part of the collection over that is in a vault in a nearby bank. The remainder, which consists mostly of uncut and reconstructed sheets, could be seen in another afternoon.

I am desirous of having you meet my daughter, her husband and two children, and she has invited us for dinner at their home Wednesday evening and my son-in-law will be glad to take you to the Ford factory and Greenfield Village Thursday or Friday morning following. We have the coin club banquet Thursday evening which will take all of the evenings with the exception of Tuesday, when I will be glad to have you take dinner with me at my apartment hotel, the Lee Plaza, where I live. We can spend the evening in my apartment.

If there are any other places of interest that you would like to see I will gladly arrange to have them shown to you. My only regret is that I cannot be with you during the forenoons but I am getting along so nicely the doctor insists that I adhere strictly to the diet he has prescribed.

Looking forward with much pleasure to seeing you next Tuesday and with best wishes, I remain,

Your very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

Mr. Harry T. Wilson
535 N. Sawyer Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Harry:

I have not had the pleasure of a line from you for sometime, but know how busy you are with the ANA work.

I presume by this time our Mr. Ripstra has called for nominations for the coming election in August 1938.

While I have this in mind I want to go on record of nominating Mr. Walter P. Nichols, 212 West Emerson St., Melrose, Mass. for a member of the Board of Governors.

In case this is a little previous, just put it down just the same.

I feel that New England should be represented on the Board and know of no better man than Mr. Nichols.

Awaiting the pleasure of meeting you in Columbus, but hope that you will be able to attend our Tri-State Convention here in June.

Sincerely yours,
T. James Clarke

Ed. Note: The preceding is a letter sent to Harry T. Wilson with a copy to Walter P. Nichols.

* * *

T. JAMES CLARKE
33-40 Charles Street
Jamestown, N.Y.

April 27, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am mighty glad to have yours of the 15th inst.

When the By-Law Committee met in Jamestown the matter of dividing the country in sections, so that every section would be represented, was taken up and had the approval of all present.

As it now stands Texas has two members of the Board, which of course is not fair.

This I think was brought about by someone wanting to beat Philpott and consequently both Hoffecker and Philpott were elected.

Philpott is an exceptionally good man and should be held in line, on the other hand my friend Hoffecker is also a fine boy.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Wilson, so you can see that you have already been nominated for a member of the Board. You can rest assured that I will give you all the assistance I can and feel that you should be elected.

I might say that I had expected to meet Mr. Ripstra in New York as he told me that he would call at my hotel just as soon as he arrived--this however, he did not do.

I met him at the Westchester meeting on the 19th and told him that I was going to Philadelphia and Baltimore.

I called Mr. Duffield to have dinner with me, but was informed that Mr. Ripstra and Mr. Kortjohn were coming some time Saturday and that he would have to remain at home and await their coming. Mr. Duffield did not know what the trip was for and as Mr. Ripstra did not say a word to me about any ANA matters I do not know what is going on--of course being an outsider now perhaps I should not know, nevertheless I think I am still a member of the ANA in good standing and even new members should know something that is taking place.

I was told while in New York that the Association was paying all traveling expenses of officers and also that over \$4000.00 had been already drawn from the treasury so far this year. Heretofore all presidents have paid their own expenses, so it's pretty easy for J. Henri [Ripstra]. He also pays for his stenographer. Just recently received a copy of the new membership list, and note that same does not contain any advertising.

Ten pages of advertising in the back would have made money for the ANA whereas now you can gamble that Hewitt Brothers charged plenty, and just so much more to be taken from the general treasury.

By the way your nomination should now head the list as Harry puts em down as they are received. This will not hurt at all.

Confidentially, just received a letter from one of the officers stating that the Board was not consulted about the membership list. Say J. Henri [Ripstra] went ahead and did it--well it was needed.

As far as I know, no operating statements are prepared to the officers and members of the board, aside from a statement which as you know does not reveal much information unless it is analyzed and put in shape.

It would seem that there are really very few new members and most of the ones that are coming are those who subscribed to The Numismatist only--of course these can be classed as new, nevertheless it would show that the district secretaries are sort of laying down on the job or in other words it has not helped to drop the live wires.

It might be well to take the matter of districts up with Mr. Ripstra.

He has never asked me for any assistance in any way, therefore I have nothing to offer.

Very truly yours,
T. James Clarke

* * *

T. JAMES CLARKE
38-40 Charles Street
May 2, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have yours of the 29th inst and contents fully noted.

Yes I attended the Westchester meeting and heard the same famous speech that I had heard several times before.

I have a letter from Duffield and he states that Ripstra, Kortjohn and Boosel met at his home while I was in the city, therefore I could not see Frank personally.

He states that Ripstra said he had been requested to advance the rates on small ads--did this request come from Hewitt Brothers? "Kill the small advertiser today and you kill the big advertiser tomorrow."

He mentioned that Ripstra said that they had already drawn over \$3000.00 and would have to go slow.

Confidentially, I have written Blake and hope to get a little more accurate figures--however, was told while in New York that the amount was well over the \$4000.00 mark.

As far as I know, Ripstra is the first president that has ever put the Association to any expense whatsoever, so why raise the ante to even \$750.00. He wanted the job so why should he not do as other presidents have done--pay for it.

I cannot but help feel that he sort of gave me the cold shoulder in New York otherwise would have called on me as he promised to do.

Even in Washington he gathered together all the presidents and former presidents of clubs for a photo--but some of us were left out--even when we were within speaking distance. Well, it doesn't bother me now.

However, I must take no active part in any move at this time as it would be poor policy on my part and would look like sour grapes.

The Pittsburgh meeting was the starting of a new policy, all of which was understood by many of the older members and do feel that it would have been better to have left these officers alone for a year or so longer and let them fully demonstrate what they could do.

When in Jamestown last June, Ripstra asked me if I wanted to run again, I told him that I had never asked for the job and would not ask for same at this or any other time.

From here he went directly to New York and canvassed all the clubs there and upon his return home he wrote me, that he had been nominated and accepted the nomination for president and as I had told him that I was not seeking the office, he expected that I would not run.

Therefore, upon notice of my nomination, I--of course declined the nomination. This is the whole story in a nut shell--perhaps the change is for the good of the ANA and I have no complaints to offer. However, I do feel that comparative figures should be presented at the next annual meeting for the benefit of all members.

If he has made good give him all the credit, but do not allow the actual facts to be buried up in order to mislead anyone. Maybe Mr. Ripstra knows exactly what is being done and what progress is being made?

This is not the case with Mr. Walker who now says that he knows less of what is being done now as a member of the Board than he did when he was not a member. I am going to attend a meeting of the Warren, Ohio Club on the 18th and will have a chance to have a good talk with Walker. With that you could arrange to be with us at our Tri-State Convention on June 11 and 12 in Jamestown.

I would be delighted to see you the president of the ANA and even now I feel that a good man would have a pretty fine chance.

Sincerely yours,
T. James Clarke

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Treasurer of the United States
Washington, D.C.

May 4, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

With reference to your letter of April 30, received in this office May 3, there is given below a list of the coins that may be furnished for your collection:

Philadelphia coinage: 1921 silver dollars; 1937 halves, quarters, dimes, nickels cents; 1938 halves, quarters, dimes, cents. Denver coinage: 1921, 1922, 1923 silver dollars; 1937 halves; 1938 cents. San Francisco coinage: 1922, 1935 silver dollars; 1936 nickels; 1938 cents.

Supplies of 1938 Buffalo nickels of the Denver Mint's coinage were shipped to the Federal reserve banks and branches, and applications therefore should be made to the Federal reserve bank or branch of your district through the usual channels.

Very truly yours,
Assistant Treasurer

* * *

WOODWARD STAMP COMPANY
33 West Columbia St.
Detroit, Michigan
May 10, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Have a chance to buy a collection of stamps at a big bargain and can make more on them than holding the 1796 half penny so have decided to let you have it for the fifty dollars you offered me and hope you will send me a P.O. money order by return mail as I cannot handle a check very well as I have no bank account. Enclosed you will find the half cent. Thanking you very much for promptness I am very truly yours,

H.N. Leonard

Am in a hurry as I do not want to lose the stamp collection.

* * *

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan
May 19, 1938

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of May 7th received on Monday, the 9th, and inasmuch as you were going away that morning I did not write you promptly.

Note what you say about the \$10.00 compound interest note and that you made a mistake in not buying it when you were here as I made you a price of \$60.00 at that time. I had no intention of charging you a higher price when I sent the bill to you on approval and thought the price I had quoted you was \$70.00 as that was the price I had on the bill, and which would have been subject to the special discount to you of 10%, or \$63.00 net.

The three bills which I sent you amounted to \$187.50 and on which I allowed you a discount of 10% and an additional discount of \$8.75, or \$160.00 net. This would make a total discount of 14 2/3%, which, pro-

rated among the three bills, would make a discount of \$10.26 on the \$10.00 compound interest note, or \$59.74 net. I want you to know that I am desirous of making this transaction entirely satisfactory to you and if you understood that I made you a price of \$60.00, less 10% discount, or \$54.00 net, I will appreciate your advising and it will be a pleasure to send you a remittance for the difference, or \$5.74.

You may be interested to know that I was not successful in making an exchange of the gold piece with the party referred to in my last letter. This party lives in Chicago and he returned the piece to me yesterday stating he was not interested in buying it on account of it being holed. I have two or three other friends who I think will be interested in it, either for sale or exchange, and to whom I have not as yet shown it.

When you were here you said that you had at home a complete description of this 1797 gold piece. If it was not too much trouble I would appreciate your sending me a copy of this description. I am not well posted on these foreign gold pieces and it might help in making a sale.

I am pleased to advise you that my health shows further improvement since you were here. I have recently moved from the Lee Plaza to the Highland Towers at 11 McLean Ave., Highland Park, which is within two blocks of my old residence. I have a very nice apartment at a considerably lower rental. I am quite sure I will enjoy this apartment more than the Lee Plaza.

I will hope to hear from you at your early convenience and I want you to be frank and do not hesitate to write me exactly the way you feel regarding the price of the \$10.00 compound interest note and I assure you I will be glad to send you a remittance promptly for the amount which will make you entirely satisfied with this transaction.

I am wondering if your wife tried the Cal-C-Malt and what her experience was with it?

Trusting the delay has not caused you any inconvenience and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

P.S. I neglected to mention above that I had received your check for \$92.50 which was in full payment for the three notes.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Albany Dongan Charter Coin Committee sent May 24, 1938)

Due to the continued demand for the commemorative coins, the committee has decided to continue selling them temporarily. The sale of these coins will probably be terminated in the near future.

We are sending you this notice in case you still desire to buy one or more of the coins.

The price is \$2.00 each. This includes postage.
Albany Dongan Charter Coin Committee
W.L. Gillespie, Chairman
60 State Street
Albany, N.Y.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Arkansas Centennial Commission sent June 2, 1938)

Announcing Increase on

Arkansas
Commemorative Half Dollars
Effective July 1, 1938

On and after July 1, 1938, all Arkansas Commemorative half dollars will be advanced in price to \$10.00 per set—Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver Mints. This price applied in Arkansas on May 1, where a campaign is now on to dispose of coins on hand within the State. Orders from outside the State will be received and filled that show, by the postmark, to have been mailed prior to July 1, at the prevailing price—\$6.75 for '36s, \$8.75 for '37s and '38s. This price includes all mailing charges. Remit by money order or check—no stamps accepted. Order direct from the

ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
A.W. Parke, Secretary



OFFICE OF
TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

WJW

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1938.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols,
212 W. Emerson Street,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

With reference to your letter of April 30, received
in this office May 3, there is given below a list of the coins
that may be furnished for your collection:

Philadelphia coinage: 1921 silver dollars
1937 halves, quarters,
dimes, nickels, cents
1938 halves, quarters, *perfect*
dimes, cents
Denver coinage: 1921, 1922, 1923 silver dollars
1937 halves
1938 cents
San Francisco coinage: 1922, 1935 silver dollars
1936 nickels
1938 cents

Supplies of 1938 Buffalo nickels of the Denver Mint's
coinage were shipped to the Federal reserve banks and branches,
and applications therefor should be made to the Federal reserve
bank or branch of your district through the usual channels.

Very truly yours,

Harmon B. Traub
Assistant Treasurer.

~~2 - P. 100 - 200 - 1938~~

During the 1930s Walter P. Nichols corresponded with the Treasury Department secretly and ordered many coins. Unlike the situation of a later date, in 1938 the government was willing to supply earlier dated issues at face value.

(Reproduction of circular)
NORFOLK ADVERTISING BOARD, INC.
Norfolk, Virginia

July 5, 1938
TO ALL NUMISMATISTS:

We returned 5,000 Norfolk commemorative half dollars to the Philadelphia Mint. The coins were melted and now the issue is only 20,000. Naturally, such action makes the Norfolk half dollar more valuable to collectors.

Only 3,500 coins remain on hand here for sale and when they are gone, trading will be very active and collectors who have extra pieces for sale will be able to get their price for them.

We urge you to place your orders by return mail as we do not anticipate any difficulty in disposing of the small number of pieces still unsold.

If you ordered coins previously ADD ONLY 5 CENTS FOR HANDLING CHARGES FOR EACH COIN AND IF YOU ORDER 20 OR MORE THE PRICE IS \$1.50 FLAT FOR EACH PIECE, WITH NO HANDLING CHARGE. In other words you only pay \$1.55 for each piece on an order of less than 20 and pay no handling charge on orders of 20 or more.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ORDERED BEFORE THE PRICE IS \$1.65 FOR THE FIRST COIN ON THE ORDER AND 5 CENTS FOR EACH ADDITIONAL UP TO 20 AND NO HANDLING CHARGE AFTER 20.

Our prediction is that the Norfolk half dollar will jump to \$3.00 when we are sold out; in view of this we urge you to send your order now, before it is too late.

Yours very truly,
Norfolk Advertising Board, Inc.
F.E. Turin, Manager

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

August 1, 1938

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of July 3rd was duly received but since it did not require a prompt reply I laid it aside and it has been overlooked. However, am sure this will reach you before you leave for the convention as you stated that you expected to leave Boston on Friday the 12th. I expect to leave here on Friday the 12th, and will be on the lookout for you Saturday morning.

I have had two or three letters from Phil and he advises that he will be at the convention but did not state when he expected to arrive.

I sent my ANA ballot this morning and, of course, voted for you. I also voted for Grant for second vice-president. I have written Grant and mentioned that I had voted for you thinking perhaps he would also vote for you. I expect to attend a meeting of the Detroit Coin Club Thursday evening of this week and will urge the members to vote for you and trust you will be elected. I presume a good part of the votes will be sent in before the convention. I am wondering if you have heard anything new regarding the prospects of your election. As I recall you told me that T. James Clarke had pledged his support. I have talked with Mr. Rapp, Mr. Needels, as well as several others, and assure you, you will have their votes and they will put forth efforts towards your election.

Hoping this finds you enjoying good health and looking forward with pleasure to seeing you at the convention and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

T. JAMES CLARKE
38-40 Charles Street
Jamestown, N.Y.

August 1, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Well I received the official ballot today and am pleased to see that your name leads the list, and I hope that when the votes have passed that you will still lead.

As you know, I'm not much of a politician, but you can bet your last cent that I will pull for you all I can.

I wish that you were running for president and I think that you would bring home the bacon.

If it were not for Dr. Henderson, I don't think that I would even go to the convention. I made some notes of 1937 and thought that perhaps you would like to refresh your memory, therefore I am enclosing a copy.

Don't think many of the officers and Board know what took place last year, so we will all have to wait for the Big Chief's report.

Awaiting the pleasure of meeting you soon.

Sincerely,
T. James Clarke

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from A. Kosoff sent August 16, 1938)

GOLD
Silver, copper, and paper money wanted.

It will be to your advantage to sell your coins to us now, when we are paying liberal prices. We will buy individual specimens or complete collections. Let us know what you have. We'll let you know what we'll pay.

Ed. Note: This postcard represents an early solicitation by Abe Kosoff, who was trained in the field of accounting but who started the Numismatic Gallery in 1937, later joined by Abner Kreisberg. During the next several decades he handled many important collections and rarities.

* * *

TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

P.O. Box 1836
Austin, Texas

August 22, 1938

Dear Friend:

You will be interested to know that approximately 3,100 sets of 1938 Texas half dollars will be outstanding after November 1, 1938. There were 5,000 sets of the coins minted. From present indications, unless quite a number is sold between now and November 1, this issue will be reduced to 3,100 sets.

After November 1, 1938, all orders for Texas coins will be returned to the senders; and as soon as possible after that date, all coins of the various issues will be returned to the United States Mints for melting.

As you probably know, there are now outstanding 70,000—1934 coins. Originally, 205,000—1934 coins were minted, but in November, 1937, 135,000 of these were returned to the Denver Mint and melted. The 1934 coins sell for \$1.15 each or \$1.00 when ordered in quantities of ten or more. There were 10,000 sets of 1936 coins minted and 8,000 sets of the 1937 coins. Coins from both of these issues sell for \$1.50 each or \$4.50 a set. The prices quoted above include postage and shipping charges.

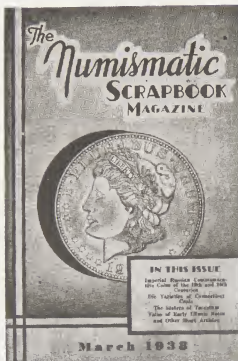
The number of coins in the issues of 1936 and 1937 will be materially reduced in November, but a still greater reduction will be in the number of coins in the issue of 1938.

Should you desire to complete your sets of Texas coins or to order additional coins, you may place your order with us before November 1. Two months remain in which to place your order. Order blanks are enclosed for your convenience.

Yours very truly,
Charles J. Harris, Executive Secretary

* * *

GET ACQUAINTED OFFER



4th Year of Publication

To those unacquainted
with the

Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine.

The best sales argument we
can offer is the magazine itself
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HEWITT BROTHERS, Publishers

5450 No. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

Brilliant Unc. 1937-P Cents.

100	1.35
500	6.50
1,000	12.50
5,000	60.00
10,000	117.50

Shipping Extra.

SPECIAL

1927-D Nickel

1931-D Dime

Scott's list \$11.00.

My price \$2.00 the pair.

Wanted—Small Cents.

ELMER H. FOX

4617 Clark Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

A NEW BOOKLET

Has just been published by John A. Muscalus listing the characters and historical events illustrated on State Bank Notes.

Price 50 cents, postpaid.

D. C. WISMER,

Hatfield, Pa.

"The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine," launched in 1935 by Lee F. Hewitt, was a large and healthy publication by 1938, three years later. It went on to become the main source of advertisement and current news, reaching prominence during the ensuing quarter century. At one time during World War II, Lee F. Hewitt was editor of "The Numismatist" on one hand while managing his "Numismatic Scrapbook" on the other. His accomplishments in numismatics were many. This October 1938 advertisement invites collectors to get acquainted with the magazine.

THE PRICE OF UNCIRCULATED AND PROOF CENTS HAS BEEN MOUNTING RAPIDLY.

However, they are still too cheap in my estimation and due for a further rise. I have a limited amount of these and would advise immediate action if interested.

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN HEAD CENTS.

	Unc.	Proof.		Unc.	Proof.
1857	\$1.50	2.00	1885	2.00	2.00
1858 Large Letters	3.50	1.00	1886	1.00	1.50
1858 Small Letters	3.50	\$1.00	1887	\$1.00	\$1.00
1859	2.00	1.00	1888	1.00	1.00
1860	2.00	1.00	1889	1.00	1.00
1862	.50	1.00	1890	1.00	1.00
1863	.50	1.00	1891	1.00	1.50
1864	.50	1.00	1892	1.00	1.00
1864 Bronze	1.00	1.00	1893	1.00	1.00
1865	1.00	1.00	1894	1.00	1.50
1867	3.50	1.00	1895	1.00	1.00
1868	3.50	1.00	1896	1.00	1.00
1869	3.50	1.00	1897	1.00	1.00
1870	3.00	1.00	1898	1.00	1.00
1873	2.00	1.00	1899	1.00	1.00
1874	2.00	1.00	1900	1.00	1.00
1875	2.00	.50	1901	.50	1.00
1876	3.00	.50	1902	.50	1.00
1878	\$3.50	.50	1903	.50	1.00
1880	1.50	.50	1904	.50	1.00
1881	1.00	.50	1905	.50	1.00
1882	1.00	.50	1906	.50	1.00
1883	1.00	.50	1907	.50	1.00
1885	1.00	.50	1908	.50	1.00
1884	1.00	.50	1909	.50	2.50

LINCOLN CENTS.

1900		\$1.00	1921-S		.35
1909 V D B		2.00	1922-D		2.50
1911		.90	1923-S		1.35
1912		1.00	1923-S		5.00
1913		1.00	1924		.50
			1924-D		5.00
			1924-S		3.50
			1925-D		.25
			1925-S		.25
			1926-S		.75
			1926-S		4.00
			1926-D		1.50
			1927		.25
			1927-D		1.50
			1927-S		1.50
			1928-S		.25
			1928-S		1.50
			1928		.15
			1929-S		.25
			1929-D		1.00
			1930		.15
			1930-S		.25
			1930-S		.50
			1931-D		.75
			1932-D		.50
			1932, 3pc 1933-D		.20
			1934, 1pc 1934-D		.20
			1935, 1pc 1935-D, 1pc 1935-S		.15
			1936, 1936-D, 1936-S, each		.10
			1937, 1937-D, 1937-S, each		.10

All orders for less than \$5.00 postage and insurance extra.

WILLIAM RABIN
905 Filbert St., Philadelphia, Pa.

In the late 1930s the coin market was at price levels representing a tiny fraction of what they would achieve a few decades later. In this 1938 advertisement, William Rabin, a Philadelphia dealer, offers numerous Proof Indian cents for \$1 each, for example.

(Reproduction of circular)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF THE MINT
WASHINGTON

Proof coins are made at the Mint in Philadelphia only and application for such coins should be made to the Superintendent of that institution. Proof coins cannot be obtained at the Treasury.

Request for coins should be accompanied by a money order to cover the face value of the coins, the charge for preparing them as Proof pieces, and the postage. The Superintendent is NOT required to accept checks. The charges are as follows:

For the 50c piece 25c
For the 25c piece 25c
For the 10c piece 10c
For the 5c piece 5c
For the 1c piece 15c Total \$1.89

The postage of 8c covers the cost of mailing one piece or a set of five pieces.

As no silver dollars have been coined during the calendar year 1937 or 1938, no Proof pieces of silver dollars are available. No Proof pieces of this denomination will be made unless a very substantial coinage of the silver dollars is executed during this calendar year.

NO PROOFS OF COMMEMORATIVE COINS WILL BE MADE.
NO PROOFS OF 1936 COINS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.
NO PROOFS OF 1938 BUFFALO NICKELS WILL BE MADE AS
DENVER IS THE ONLY MINT ISSUING THESE COINS.
JEFFERSON NICKEL PROOFS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOME TIME IN
AUGUST OF 1938.

* * *

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Corporations and Taxation
Income Tax Division
40 Court Street
Boston, Massachusetts

September 13, 1938

Faith E. Nichols

Dear Madam:

We acknowledge the receipt of your recent statement as to residence, which will receive our full consideration.

Yours very truly,
Henry F. Long, Commissioner,
Elmer E. George, Income Tax Director

Ed. Note: This is in reference to the effort by Massachusetts to levy personal taxation on Walter P. Nichols, who used Massachusetts as a mailing address for his coin business but who claimed residence, voted in, and was a deputy sheriff in the state of Maine.

* * *

(Reproduction of circular)

NORFOLK ADVERTISING BOARD, INC.
Norfolk, Virginia

September 13, 1938

TO ALL NUMISMATISTS:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We respectfully invite your attention to the fact that less than 3,000 Norfolk half dollars remain on hand and that as soon as they are gone all pieces in the hands of collectors will automatically become more valuable.

The Norfolk commemorative half dollar is the only piece of United States money with a reproduction of the Royal Crown of England on it (it appears on the Norfolk Mace) and also is the only piece of this country's money that bears the initials of two sculptors.

In our opinion the price will jump to \$2.50 or \$3.00 each as soon as we have sold out; therefore we suggest that you purchase additional coins so

that you will be in an enviable position when it comes to trading later with another collector who did not have the foresight to buy his Norfolk half dollar when the price was extremely low.

Regardless of what anyone may tell you, remember that the fewer there is of anything, the more valuable that thing is. The action of Congress in restricting issues of commemoratives should automatically make all previous issues worth a high premium; also, future sessions of Congress may reverse the present situation whereby issues are limited and then there will be a scramble to complete sets and high prices will be demanded.

We urge you to rush your orders now as we do not anticipate any trouble in disposing of the few remaining coins. If you bought our half dollars previously you can buy as many as you wish, now, for only \$1.50 each. If you did not purchase any before, under Treasury Department instructions we must charge you 15 cents extra on the first coin on the order.

Thanking you for quick action, we are,

Yours very truly,
F.E. Turin, Manager

* * *

UNITED STATES SENATE

September 21, 1938

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am complying with your request and contacting the Director of the Mint with respect to your application for appointment to the Annual Assay Commission for 1939.

Hoping you will be successful in being selected for this appointment,

Sincerely yours,
David I. Walsh, Mass. Chairman

Ed. Note: Unfortunately, Walter P. Nichols was not among the citizens appointed to the next (1939) Assay Commission, which met on Wednesday, February 8th, 1939 to review the preceding year's coinage.

* * *

DAVID M. BULLOWA

10 West 86th Street

New York City

October 5, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Prior to submitting to the American Numismatic Society final figures for the York County half dollar, to be used in connection with my forthcoming publication on the "United States Commemorative Coinage," I would appreciate it very much if you would advise me whether any of the York County issues were returned to the mint for remelting, and if so how many.

For your convenience I enclose herewith self-addressed envelope, and would appreciate being favored with a prompt reply.

I trust that you are soon contemplating a visit to these parts, and that we may then have the pleasure of entertaining you at the various numismatic clubs.

Awaiting your reply with interest, I beg to remain,

Yours most respectfully,
David M. Bullowa

Ed Note: David Bullowa's book on United States commemorative coin was subsequently published by the American Numismatic Society and remained for many years the standard work on the technical aspect of these issues. David Bullowa was a prominent professional numismatist until his death in the early 1950s. His wife, Catherine Bullowa, continued his business in later years.

* * *

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OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

ERIN MEYER, Founder

1775 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

CLUB 74317

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Nebraska	Utah

October 29, 1938

Mr. W. P. Nichols,
2121 W. Emerson St.,
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

As one of our patrons we feel you will be interested in receiving the following advance word concerning the 1939 Oregon Trail Memorial half-dollars.

Our Association, carrying forward its program of monumenting and marking the Old Oregon Trail and its allied branches, announces a limited issue of its memorial half-dollars for 1939. The issue is limited to 3,000 sets (a set consisting of three coins, one each from the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco mints).

These coins, to be sold in sets only, will be distributed early in January. The price per set is \$7.50 postpaid and insured.

Orders accompanied by remittance will be honored, and reservations made in accordance with their receipt at our office. Enclosed is an order blank for your convenience in making your reservation.

The new date on these 1939 half-dollars has special historical significance. It marks the hundredth anniversary of the founding of Sutter's Fort, the ninetieth anniversary of the California Gold Rush, and the eightieth anniversary of the opening of the Overland Stage Line to Denver. All of those events are intimately connected with the Oregon Trail. It was along this historic highway that thousands of those who joined in the Gold Rush made their way to the West. The Overland Stage route, for hundreds of miles was one with the Oregon Trail. The 1939 issue of the Oregon Trail Memorial half-dollar will help commemorate this significant history.

A major project of this year, now well towards completion and made possible in part by our 1938 issue, is the marking of every mile of the two-thousand mile Pony Express Trail. This historic route followed the Oregon Trail for more than one-thousand miles.

To you who have aided in this patriotic service we express our appreciation.

Sincerely yours,
OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Perry Driggs
Perry Driggs
Executive Secretary

PD:r

The Oregon Trail commemorative half dollars furnished the subject of this notice dated October 29, 1938. As it turned out, the 1939 Oregon Trail half dollars were the lowest mintage issue and later became quite valuable.

(Reproduction of postcard from C. Frank Dunn sent October 11, 1938)

Thank you for your order for three, three-mint set(s) of the 1938 Daniel Boone half dollar. According to the Mint, the coins will be ready by the latter part of this month and will be sent promptly.

Best regards, old scout. Guess you saw that the 1937 D&S turned out to be 2,500 issues.

C. Frank Dunn

* * *

TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION

Dallas, Texas

October 18, 1938

Dear Walter:

You are due an apology for our having waited so long in replying to your nice letter following the convention. So many things had piled up our desk that we had overlooked it some way.

I am very much delighted to hear that you are going to write a book on currency. It certainly is needed. I started one several years ago and got through the \$1 bills. I found that all available data was so incomplete that I got discouraged. Wrote the Treasury Department about fifty-two questions. They took eight months replying, and then there was only a reply to eighteen of the questions. When you get a little further along with your work I will be glad to send you my material.

I am hoping that you will not be content with issuing just a check list such as Wayne Raymond's book, or Mr. Blake's book.

You are certainly welcome to use any of the material that we have dug up, including the two tables that you mention, and anything else that we can help you with during the process of your work. Please command us freely.

Again expressing regret that your good letter remained so long unanswered, I am

Sincerely,
W.A. Philpott, Jr.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Arkansas Centennial Commission sent October 19, 1938)

Your order for 1939 Arkansas Commemorative half dollars has been received and entered. You understand that these coins cannot be minted until 1939. Our order will be placed with the mint so that those coined in Philadelphia will be delivered soon after January 1, 1939. The dies must then be transported to the Denver and San Francisco mints, and it will be some time in February when coinage is completed. Immediately upon receipt of the coins they will be forwarded to the address given with your order. With a limited issue, and orders arriving so numerous, we are certain to be sold out within the next few weeks. Your reservation has been made so you are protected.

Yours very truly,
W.W. Parke, Executive Secretary
Arkansas Centennial Commission
Little Rock, Ark.

* * *

OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

1775 Broadway
New York, New York

October 29, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

As one of our patrons we feel you will be interested in receiving the following advance word concerning the 1939 Oregon Trail Memorial half dollars.

Our Association, carrying forward its program of monumenting and marking the old Oregon Trail and its allied branches, announces a limited

issue of its memorial half dollars for 1939. The issue is limited to 3,000 sets (a set consisting of three coins, one each from the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco mints).

These coins, to be sold in sets only, will be distributed early in January. The price per set is \$7.50 postpaid and insured.

Orders accompanied by remittance will be honored, and reservations made in accordance with their receipt at our office. Enclosed is an order blank for your convenience in making your reservations.

The new date on these 1939 half dollars has special historical significance. It marks the hundredth anniversary of the founding of Sutter's Fort, the ninetieth anniversary of the California Gold Rush, and the eightieth anniversary of the opening of the Overland Stage Line to Denver. All of these events are intimately connected with the Oregon Trail. It was along this historic highway that thousands of those who joined in the Gold Rush made their way to the West. The Overland Stage route for hundreds of miles was one with the Oregon Trail. The 1939 issue of the Oregon Trail Memorial half dollar will help commemorate this significant history.

A major project of this year, now well towards completion and made possible in part by our 1938 issue, is the marking of every mile of the two-thousand mile Pony Express Trail. This historic route followed the Oregon Trail for more than one thousand miles.

To you who have aided in this patriotic service we express our appreciation.

Sincerely yours,
Perry Driggs, Executive Secretary

* * *

COLORADO NATIONAL BANK

Denver, Colorado

November 1, 1938

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of October 31, requesting a shipment of 1938 D Mint Uncirculated pennies, we wish to advise that the Mint informs us that present supply of 1937 pennies will not be exhausted for at least two months; therefore, none of the '38 issues will be released until that time.

Under the circumstances, we are returning your check in the amount of \$20.50 and regret our inability to be of service.

Very truly yours,
W.L. Robinson, Assistant Cashier

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Oregon Trail Memorial Association sent November 1, 1938)

We acknowledge receipt of your order for three sets of 1939 (P-D-S mint) OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL half dollars, and your remittance of \$22.50 to cover cost of the same.

These to be delivered as soon as possible after their receipt from the mints. Our anticipation is that we will receive them early in January.

Oregon Trail Memorial Association

* * *

(Reproduction of circular)

TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
Austin, Texas

ALL UNSOLD TEXAS COINS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES MINT TO BE MELTED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 1938

The Board of Directors of the Texas Memorial Museum Centennial Coin Campaign passed a resolution on June 25th which calls for the discontinuance of the sale of Texas commemorative half dollars.

According to this resolution, there will be no more Texas coins minted under the Act passed by the 73rd Session of Congress on June 15, 1933. Although this Act authorizes the minting of 1,500,000 Texas commemorative half dollars, this Commission is waiving all rights to any future issues.

On November 1, 1938, all sales of Texas Centennial half dollars will be discontinued. We will then request permission from the Secretary of the Treasury to return all of the unsold Texas coins of the various issues to the United States Mint to be melted. All of the business transactions of this Commission will be ended and this office will be closed by the end of November 1938. All orders received after November 1 will be returned to the senders.

Should you desire to complete your sets at the original prices, you may place your order with us before November 1, 1938. We have on hand a limited number of complete sets of the 1936, 1937, and 1938 Texas coins.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish to express sincere appreciation for the support you have given the Texas Memorial Museum. We are sure that the melting of these coins and the decision against any future issues will materially benefit you as well as the numismatic field at large.

Yours very truly,

Charles J. Harris, Executive Secretary

* * *

WELLS FARGO BANK & UNION TRUST CO.

San Francisco, Cal.

November 2, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have received your check for \$20.50 enclosed in your letter of October 29 and also note your instructions to ship to you \$20.00 worth of 1938 S mint, Uncirculated pennies.

The United States Mint here at San Francisco will not release any 1938 pennies to the Federal Reserve Bank until the supply of 1937 pennies is exhausted

At the present time I have a small supply of 1937 pennies and if you care to have \$20.00 worth I shall be pleased to send them to you. I shall write you immediately when the 1938 pennies are released. In the meantime I am holding your check until I hear from you.

Thank you for your remembrance to Mr. Silvernail. I shall say "hello" to him for you when he returns from a Texas trip. He probably will see Mr. Philpott down there as they are good friends.

Very truly yours,
W.L. Muller, Pro Cashier

* * *

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Bureau of Engraving and Printing
Washington, D.C.

November 15, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks a lot for the copy, "The Story of Uncle Sam's Money."

It was a pleasure to have met you, and anytime we can aid or help you in any way with your research work we will be pleased to do so.

Looking forward to your next visit with pleasure, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Superintendent Engraving Department

Ed Note: This is one of many letters written to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Federal Reserve Banks, and others seeking information concerning United States currency statistics and research for a work which never came to pass, due to Mr. Nichols' death in 1941.

* * *

ALBERT A. GRINNELL

1515 Woodward Avenue

Detroit, Michigan

November 19, 1938

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of November 15th was awaiting me when I returned from a trip to my farms which are located near Batavia, N.Y. I had two 100 acre farms which I exchanged for some income property in Rochester so feel quite relieved to be rid of the farms, although the property received hardly seems adequate, but people who knew both properties feel that I made a fair exchange.

I wrote you hurriedly on the 17th and was sorry to hear that you had been having trouble with your stomach and certainly hope you do not have ulcers. I am pleased to advise you that my progress seems very satisfactory but I still have to remain on the rigid diet.

I also note that you may decide to visit me again before you complete your book on U.S. currency. I assure you it will be a pleasure to see you and would be very glad indeed to show you the whole or any part of my collection and you could make notes covering the points you desired at the same time. Mr. Draper could go with us and he could make the notes for you. I will be glad to see you at any time. However, if you did not decide to come until early next summer after you had returned from Florida we could work in the mornings and play golf in the afternoons. However, will leave this to you to plan when it will be most convenient.

Note that you have some duplicate notes which you expect to send me. As soon as they are received I will appraise them and will hold the notes until I hear from you.

I presume you have already laid away your usual stock of the new Jefferson nickel. The banks here are able to supply them and Mr. Draper got some there today.

I will be glad to hear from you any time at your convenience.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

WELLS FARGO BANK & UNION TRUST CO.

San Francisco, Cal.

November 21, 1938

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Having finally received our 1938 supply of pennies, I have today negotiated your check and am shipping to you by Railway Express, shipping charges collect, a bag of 2,000 pennies.

It seems that the pennies were released rather late this year as we understand the Mint has been very busy with the new Jefferson nickels.

Please do not hesitate to call on me for anything that you may wish, and, taking this opportunity to wish you "happy holidays" I am,

Very truly yours,
W.L. Muller, Pro Cashier

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from James Kelly sent sometime in 1938)

Dear Sir:

I am taking this opportunity of meeting as many coin collectors as possible. As a dealer of only a short time, I am in need of two things, customers and choice material. As a collector, you are probably interested in obtaining choice coins for your collection, at reasonable prices, or in disposing of some of your duplicates.

I would consider it a favor to serve you in either case. You are assured of honest and courteous service, whether buying or selling.

I have a large stock of U.S. coins, all series. Orders solicited, large or small. Coins sent on approval to responsible collectors. All correspondence answered. Let me help make your hobby more pleasant.

Sincerely,
James Kelly
RR 6, Box 259
Dayton, Ohio

Ed Note: James Kelly, a Dayton jeweler, entered the coin business around the time of this 1938 postcard. Later he wrote the "Trends" section for *Coin World* and, still later, was one of the principals in the formation of Paramount International Coin Corporation in 1965-1966.

* * *

(Reproduction of legal brief sometime around 1938-1939)

BRIEF

IN THE MATTER OF LIBABILITY OF W.P.NICHOLS TO TAXATION UPON HIS INCOME IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Seventeen years ago, W.P. Nichols notified the duly elected appropriate officials of Melrose Massachusetts, where he was then residing and domiciled, that he was to take up his residence and domicile in Acton, Maine. Upon his arrival, seventeen years ago, in Acton, Maine, he notified the selectmen of that town, in writing, that he was establishing his residence and domicile in that town. He has, with his wife, resided and has been domiciled in Acton, Maine for a period of seventeen years, and is now domiciled in said Acton, Maine. Both he and his wife have paid real estate and tangible property taxes, and have voted in the town of Acton, Maine continuously over said period. For the last six years he has been a deputy sheriff in York County, Maine, in which county Acton is situated. His residence in Acton, Maine, is a substantial dwelling house with a garage and thirty acres of land. His wife owns a substantial amount of real estate in Sanford where her parents' home was located, and where the family home is still located. He owns no property, has no office, place of business, home or residence in the State of Massachusetts. He has a bank account in Boston, Massachusetts. He lives continuously with his wife in his home in Acton, Maine, from April to November of each year. He and his wife pass on the average of five weeks in the winter in Florida. He is a public accountant and is now substantially retired. He passes the remainder of the year on his business interests in Rhode Island, New York and various other places in the United States.

His mother-in-law has a residence in Melrose, Massachusetts where he and his wife visit on various occasions. For the receipt of his mail, he has designated his mother-in-law's residence in Melrose, Massachusetts as the address for the receipt of mail. This address is established for the reason that customarily over a period of four or five months his mother-in-law is the only person who knows where he is located. Upon the receipt of mail, his mother-in-law forwards such mail to him. All his personal and private interests are in Maine. He has, over all the period that he has lived in Acton, Maine, declared the residence owned and occupied by him to be his home. He has developed at great expense the property which he occupies as his home in Acton, Maine. All his family possessions, portraits, and heirlooms are located there. All the activities relative to his chief interests are centered there. He has spent more time there over the past seventeen years than in any other place, remaining there each year over periods ranging from six to eight months of each year...

Ed Note: The preceding is an excerpt from a brief filed with the state of Massachusetts in which Mr. Nichols gives some biographical information and data concerning the status of his residence.

* * *

Correspondence from 1939

DAVID M. BULLOWA

10 West 86th Street
New York City

January 2, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am glad to acknowledge your very kind letter of December 29th, setting me straight on a few points.

For two of three errors I am not responsible, although I must bear the brunt since the book only carries my name.

The galley proofs (of which I have a copy before me) bore the text, which I had taken from the 1936 Numismatist issues dealing with the York County issue:

"The designs for the half dollar were prepared by Walter H. Rich of Portland, Maine. These were then executed in models of brass by Pacetti Company of Boston..."

This reading was changed, because one of the editors at the ANA claimed his technical knowledge was such, that the phrase 'executed in brass' was apparently a mistake. I then produced The Numismatist from which it was taken, but not being in a position to question his 'technical knowledge' I yielded, and the 'executed' was changed to 'cast'.

The Medallic Art Company of this city supplied me with a check-list of all the issues of the commemorative coinage in which they were interested. They had 'MAC' following the York County half dollar, meaning that the Medallic Art Co., had reduced the dies. I am writing to them today and will advise you of their reply.

The opinions regarding the design which I have expressed are my own, and they are purely personal. Most collectors with whom I have discussed this issue, and whose aggregate opinion is expressed as my own, seem to think the inscriptions proportionately too large.

Should another edition be printed, these corrections will certainly be incorporated.

May I again express to you my appreciation of your letter, as I am most anxious to have all the facts correct.

Trusting that you have had a pleasant holiday, and looking forward to seeing you soon,

I beg to remain,

Yours most respectfully,
David M. Bullowa

* * *

DAVID M. BULLOWA

10 West 86th Street
New York City

January 14, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have just received a letter from the Medallic Art Company of this city, which reads as follows:

"We have checked our files and find that we did not reduce the models for the York County coin. This was an error on the part of the girl who checked the lists. We regret that this error occurred but feel confident that the balance of the information was correct."

I wish to thank you very much for having brought this point to my attention, and can assure you that if (and when) a 2nd edition of the monograph is contemplated, there will be incorporated in it, this change, and that referring to the 'execution of the models in brass.'

Looking forward to seeing you soon I beg to remain,

Yours most respectfully,
David M. Bullowa

* * *

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

From the Office of Harry Boosel
1623 E 55th St.
Chicago, Illinois

March 4, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I recall you mentioned something about an uncut sheet of two dollar bills. At present I have a sheet that I would like to sell. Series of 1928-C signed by Julian & Morganthau. The numbers are quite large, and not in the low series. The price asked is \$40.

If you are interested, please write.

Numismatically,
Harry Boosel

Ed Note: Harry Boosel in 1939 was in the early years of his distinguished numismatic career that would span many subsequent decades. In 1939 he was the youngest person ever to serve as a member of the Board of Governors.

* * *

TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION

Dallas, Texas

April 19, 1939

Dear Walter:

For some time I have been planning to write you. Recently, your friend Stanley of the First National Bank, Boston, wrote me, and I was glad to furnish him two notes he lacked for the bank's collection. He spoke highly of you.

Walter, I have definitely decided that I will not permit my name to appear on the ballot for a place on the ANA Board of Governors. I've had it plenty long—it's an honor that should be passed around.

Besides, we of the Southwest expect to run friend Hofferker for ANA president at the New York convention. Support for him is already coming in from all parts of the country even before any announcement of his candidacy. As you will agree, he is a fine fellow and friend, and eminently qualified for the place. He has served two terms on the Board, did some very effective work in Washington for the ANA and has a wide circle of followers, because of his fair distribution of the Spanish Trail and Elgin half dollars. We think he can be elected easily.

Now, Walter, we want you on the Board. I will nominate you at the proper time and you can depend on the South and the West to put you over. I am looking further down the line—after a term or two we will "run" you for the presidency! And elect you!

So, write me what you think of friend Hofferker as a candidate (it is not his idea—but he will be willing and eager to serve the ANA if elected.) I am here and now binding myself to vote and work for you for a place on the board. I know you can aid very materially in getting the New England vote for friend Hofferker over any other candidate.

I hope you and Mrs. Nichols spent a splendid winter (that Florida visit no doubt, was good—next time come to Texas!) and that you are both well and happy. Please give her my best thoughts.

Sincerely,
W.A. Philpott, Jr.

* * *

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

From the Office of William A. Philpott, Jr.
Dallas, Texas

April 27, 1939

Dear Walter:

I am very much pleased to have your letter of April 23, and to know that you will be for our friend Hofferker. With your endorsement of him I feel like we have the vote of New England "in the bag."

Very shortly we are having some printed folders on Mr. Hofferker, and will send you a bunch for distribution in your particular territory.

Regarding your paragraph about my running again for the board, I am fully determined not to stand for reelection. I have had it enough and then, too, I think it might hurt Hofferker's chances. We want you on that board this time, and I am going to nominate you and do everything in my power to get the votes from this part of the country to you. I do not think you will have any trouble since you made such a good race last time. As far as we are concerned, please remember that I have already decided not to be a candidate.

Yes, I had heard about Mr. Grinnell's accident and have written him a letter. I am sure he will be up in a few days.

Again thanking you for your nice letter, I am,

Sincerely,
W.A. Philpott, Jr.

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas

April 28, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Received your kind letter this morning and wish to express my appreciation for your support as I know you can do me a lot of good in your neck of the woods.

I am not making much of a campaign myself. The Dallas Coin Club is getting out some pamphlets to send to the secretaries of all the clubs and Max is also putting them in his mail to his customers.

I told Phil I would like to have you on the board with me in case I got elected and I nominated you last year and will do so again this year and do what I can for you to put you over and it looks as though you should not have any trouble as Phil is going to drop out this year.

Thanking you again for your kindness and will tell you more about it when I see you in New York in the fall, and with kind regards, I am,
Yours very truly,
L.W. Hofferker

* * *

T. JAMES CLARKE
38-40 Charles Street
Jamestown, N.Y.

May 14, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have heard considerable talk about you being one of the candidates for a member of the Board of Governors this year.

You are aware that I nominated you last year, and would like to do the same thing this year.

You made such a good showing last year, that I am sure you would make the grade this year.

I feel that it would be somewhat of a problem if one could be elected to a higher office, before he had served a term at least on the Board.

Of course you know how I felt about the auditors' report last year.

I still think that these reports should give all the facts to the members as well as comparisons with previous years, but this was overlooked or done intentionally.

You are the first auditor that had the nerve to get up and tell them exactly where they stood and I still feel that if you had been chairman the first year, the report would have been somewhat different. I do not like this "cover up" stuff no matter who it hits.

Would be glad to have a line from you.

I was in New York for two weeks last month and will have to make another short trip there again within a couple of weeks. Don't know if I will make Boston or not.

Sincerely yours,
T. James Clarke

* * *

T. JAMES CLARKE
38-40 Charles Street
Jamestown, N.Y.

May 22, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have yours of the 20th inst. and might glad to have a line from you.

I thought that what I said about the "cover up" might get your "goat" but as you realize and think about the same as I do, I am only sorry that I did not rub it in a little harder.

However, Mr. Kortjohn was looked upon as a sort of a "yes" man for Ripstra, and has been jumped upon a good and plenty by some of the New York boys, that he now fully appreciated his mistakes in so doing and at this time is not very complimentary to his big boss.

Mr. Kortjohn informed me at the last convention that his report in The Numismatist would be so vague that none of the members would know what was being done--this I agree. You are dead wrong as the Association still belongs to the members and not the officers.

In fact if I had been president for the past two years and the earnings and membership had slipped, I would have cheerfully reported same in my report.

You have done such a good job for me and brought the facts to light, which had never been done before, that I feel the association needs men like you, otherwise I would not want to nominate you for any office.

Let em all nominate you, the more the better and I am sure that you will carry away the ticket this year.

The line up as it seems to me at present, will be about as follows: President, Hofferker, 1st vice-president Hansen, 2nd vice-president Ferguson, same secretary and treasurer. Members of the Board: Dr. Henderson, Nichols, Kortjohn, Thorson, either Bob Lloyd or Philpott and I understand Philpott will not run. What do you think of this set up??

I have always thought that all reports should give past figures for the members as comparisons, as that is the only way we know which way we are going.

A little later, if you care for same, I will give you some of the figures that I compiled, although I think that I sent these to you last year.

For the past year, I have not received the reports from The Numismatist or the Chicago office, as Mr Duffield was asked not to send same to me.

I have, however, received some from time to time from Members of the Board asking me to analyze same.

If you have received same, you will notice that the only thing Duffield is credited with is the advertising and the subscriptions are all credited to the Chicago office.

Surely \$2.00 out of the \$3.00 belongs to The Numismatist, but the big chief does not appreciate same or does not know anything about the business end of the association.

I note that you will be in New York the week beginning June 4th and it is barely possible that I may be there, for on my last trip some few weeks ago, I helped to organize a new lithographing firm and will have to attend the first meeting, which will take place just as soon as the incorporation papers are ready.

Mr. Ripstra may pull from around Chicago, but my prediction is that Hofferker will win out by a very long margin and this goes for his entire ticket.

Let me have a line from you at once and tell me how the present new slate looks to you.

Very sincerely yours,
T. James Clarke

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas
June 13, 1939

Dear Walter:

I am enclosing a bunch of pamphlets which the Dallas Club got out and I wish to thank you for the work you are doing in the New England states.

Everything looks fine. I am getting letters promising me support from all over the country.

Ripstra seems to be rather strong in the middle west but I have several friends in Kansas City, and Thorson is doing all he can in Iowa and Nebraska.

With kind regards, I am

Yours truly,
L.W. Hofferker

L.W. HOFFECKER
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas
June 20, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I received a letter from Mr. Needels in Detroit and he says everyone is pretty strong for me there. He tried to get the club to come out and endorse me for president but Harry Rapp wanted them to hold off and I have a good idea why. He thinks possibly you are coming out for president. While I would not like to have you mention this matter to him, you might write him a friendly letter and tell him the situation and what your club is doing to promote you for the Board.

I don't know whether you have seen Kortjohn lately or not, but I understand that Ripstra held up Duffield's money so that he had to borrow five hundred dollars to get out the magazine. Kortjohn will tell you all about it when you see him. I had a letter from Duffield myself.

Ripstra hasn't announced yet but he is hoping that he will be forced to run and has been doing a lot of work in the middle west with that money we allowed him for traveling expenses to organize new clubs. By the way, the only new club he has organized have been some in opposition to the ANA. I believe he admitted to Kortjohn that he did not think he had done the ANA much good but he still keeps spending the money. However, I am not saying anything about him excepting to a few on the inside.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Yours truly,
L.W. Hofferker

* * *

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
Boston, Mass.

June 23, 1939

Dear Sir:

The ballots for the 1939 ANA elections will be sent out to all members of the ANA.

Mr. Walter P. Nichols, past president of the Boston Numismatic Society (ANA Life No. 45 and district secretary for Massachusetts) is a candidate for the Board of Governors and I write this letter to you on behalf of his candidacy.

The election of Mr. Nichols to the Board of Governors is not sought by himself but has been urged upon him by a number of his friends, not as an honor to him but rather to strengthen the Board by the election of a serious numismatist with marked executive ability plus energy and a way of "getting things done."

Mr. Nichols will be remembered by collectors of commemorative half dollars as the "man behind the committee" for the York County half dollar, which was issued without the least criticism of profiteering.

Mr. Nichols' activity as present district secretary for Massachusetts is greatly appreciated by New England numismatists and his cheerful, though unostentatious, work on special committees at recent ANA conventions has prepared him splendidly to act as one of our Governors.

By his character, experience, enthusiasm and his wide acquaintanceship he is preeminently fitted for this office. May I ask you to read this letter at the next meeting of your society and invite your members to vote for Mr. Walter P. Nichols for the ANA Board of Governors.

Thanking you, I remain,
Shepard Pond, ANA No. 2198
Pres. Boston Numismatic Society
Past member of ANA Board of Governors

* * *

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
From the Office of the General Secretary
915 Oakdale Ave.
Chicago, Illinois
July 3, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

This office has pleasure in officially notifying you of your nomination for a member of the Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association for its next ensuing year, 1939-1940.

Kindly advise this office at your earliest convenience whether you accept or decline this honor. Your reply must reach this office not later than the 15th next to be included in the August issue of *The Numismatist*, which will carry a report of all nominations received up to that date.

Fraternally and numismatically,
M. Vernon Sheldon, General Secretary

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from Harry Boosel sent July 10, 1939)

Uncirculated Silver Dollars

1880 S Brilliant semi Proof
1880 CC Semi Proof
1881 S Brilliant Semi Proof
1882 CC Semi Proof
1883 P Uncirculated
1883 O Uncirculated
1883 CC Brilliant Semi Proof
1884 O Uncirculated
1884 CC Uncirculated
1885 O Uncirculated

Some of the above have slight mint scratches on the obverse.

ANY DATE \$2.10 EACH Postpaid

1885 CC Uncirculated \$7 each

H. BOOSEL
1623 East 55th Street
Chicago, Illinois

* * *

CLEMENT G. NOYES
17 Arch Street
New Bedford, Mass.
July 28, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

At your visit to the New Bedford Coin Club, you told us much of interest regarding famous coins, and one thing which I neglected to inquire further about at that time was concerning the Attleboro dollar. I am working up a paper on the 1804 dollar and nowhere can I find information regarding the Attleboro piece. Was this the second restrike and where did it get its title? I would be most appreciative of any information you could give me regarding this piece.

I ran across an old book which stated that although there had been two restrikes of the 1804 dollar there had never been a counterfeit. Since this book is about 50 years old, I hesitated to use this information for fear that later developments might prove me wrong. Have you got the answer to this one too?

I thank you in advance, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Sincerely,
Clement G. Noyes

Ed Note: Around this time Walter P. Nichols was quite interested in the subject of 1804 silver dollars. He came into possession of a coin which ostensibly was an 1804, but which on inspection proved to be altered from an 1801.

* * *

(Reproduction of postcard from A.W. PARKE sent August 12, 1939)

CLEAN-UP SALE ON ARKANSAS COMMEMORATIVES

Having acquired, through an advantageous purchase, all unsold issues of Arkansas commemoratives, I offer, while they last, several hundred sets each of 1936s and 1938s at the following prices:

1936—P-D-S \$6.75 per set
1938—P-D-S \$8.75 per set

These prices include postage and insurance. Both issues were limited and have been sold by the Arkansas Centennial Commission at \$10.00 per set. At this price the supply will soon be exhausted. First come, first served.

Mail check or money order to:

A.W. Parke
Box 189, Little Rock, Ark.

If your order is received too late, check or money order will be returned immediately.

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas

August 17, 1939

Dear Walter:

Thought best to drop you a few lines. I suppose you have heard Ripstra declined the nomination for president but accepted for the Board. He is out to make trouble. Get all the proxies you can so we can stop him from putting anything over on the floor at the convention. And we must defeat him and Boosel.

If you can get your club to give you their ballots and proxies it will help a lot.

The Washington Club endorsed you at their meeting on the 7th and appointed Mr. Hodge their secretary to represent them at the convention.

Dr. Henderson suggested that I have some eastern clubs endorse a ticket. I am writing New York. I, of course, cannot be recorded in it as it would cause dissension should one of the outsiders be elected. Ripstra had done his best to start an argument with me by mail but I wrote him and told him to lay off of me and did not answer his letters.

I will answer him at the convention personally if he starts anything.

Max sent out 3500 letters asking for ballots and proxies on the 16th. Will see him again Monday night and talk things over. He and Phil have gone down the line for me and got out some high class literature.

Ripstra brought it all on himself. I would not have run against him if he had not been so vindictive after the Clarke dinner. And, he went out of the way to hand it to me. But never kept me posted on what was being done by him for the association.

He double crossed Walker and me to do everything he condemned Clarke for. I am sorry he declined as I think I could have beaten him. Clarke and Max are disappointed also.

Hoping that your campaign is coming on satisfactorily and that I will see you on the Board with me next year.

I am yours truly,
L.W. Hoffecker

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas

August 31, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have just received a letter from Mr. Max Mehl, who, I think I told you, sent out 3500 letters on my campaign for which I stood the cost. He now writes me he is receiving replies to those letters and several of the members are asking who to vote for for the Board, and he wants to know my opinion on sending out another lot of letters to all of the members of the Association telling them for whom to vote for the Board. We have decided the following candidates, if elected, will be for the benefit of the Association:

1st vice-president Harvey Hanson
2nd vice-president Mr. Ferguson
Treasurer: George Blake
Librarian: Mr. Dewey
Board of Governors: Dr. J.M. Henderson, Mr. Kortjohn, Mr. Nichols,
Mr. Thorson and Mr. Curtis

I would like to have your opinion of this and know if you would be willing to stand one-sixth of the cost, which should not exceed \$15.00 per person, and probably less. I hardly feel like paying the entire cost myself but would be willing to pay my share. I am not writing the candidates for 1st vice-president and treasurer.

Please let me have your reply by return airmail as these letters must be sent out at once if we are to send them.

Yours very truly,
L.W. Hoffecker

* * *

COLORADO NATIONAL BANK
Denver, Colorado

September 20, 1939

Dear Sir:

Answering your letter of September 16, we regret to advise that 1939 D pennies are not available as yet; however we do have on hand \$20.00 of 1938 pennies which we shall be pleased to ship to you, charges collect, if you will send us bank draft for the principal amount, plus our service charge of 50c.

Very truly yours,
W.L. Robertson, Assistant Cashier

* * *

WELLS FARGO BANK & UNION TRUST CO.

San Francisco, CA

September 25, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have received your letter of September 16 inquiring about the new 1939 S Mint and 1938 D Mint pennies.

At the present time we have a good supply of the 1939 pennies on hand and can supply you with \$20.00 worth. Here in San Francisco we do not receive any D Mint pennies. However, I suggest that you write to the First National Bank, Denver, Colorado, who are our correspondents there, and ask them if they can obtain some 1938 Denver pennies for you.

If you will send me your check I will immediately see that shipment of 1939 San Francisco pennies goes forward to you.

It is nice to hear from you again and I want you to feel that I am most happy to fill your orders.

Very truly yours,
W.L. Muller

* * *

RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY

Holyoke, Mass.

October 14, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I noted in the column of "Observant Citizen" of the Boston Post that you were elected to the Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association recently.

I am not a coin collector, so called. I am a collector through force of circumstances. Some of the public have the idea that an express office will take anything that looks like money, and because of that I have picked up a considerable number of pieces of money of different nations. Quite a few of these coins are 100 years old and better. I have thought they might have some value if I could contact with the right party. I am suspicious of coin buyers for no reason at all, except that I am.

I write to ask if you could recommend someone that would give me value for value received.

Thanking you for your reply, I am,

Very truly yours,
A.C.M. French

Ed Note: The above letter is typical of hundreds received by Walter P. Nichols over the years in response to various articles in newspapers and general-circulation publication.

* * *

L.W. HOFFECKER
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas

October 17, 1939

Dear Walter:

I am enclosing you copy of the picture my daughter took at the convention.

Wish to congratulate you on your election and you can see now what happens when you travel in good company! My daughter was very much worried for fear that that good looking man would not get elected and she said you were kind of down at the mouth.

Be careful now of the company you keep and we will elect you president one of these days.

I stopped and saw Phil on my way back and they had a special meeting of the Dallas Club where I received a fine reception and gave them a report of the meeting.

If you have not been able to obtain a sheet of the \$2.00 bills yet, write Mr. H.H. Hulbert, Room 127, Treasury Building, Washington, D.C. and ask him if it is possible to obtain a sheet. It might be well to mention that you are on the Board of Governors of the ANA. However, do not mention my name, but I am sure that he will let you have a sheet. Of course, you will have to send your check for the \$24.00 and the postage. I don't know how much the postage will be but they will return whatever excess you send them.

With kind regards, I am

Yours truly,
L.W. Hoffecker

* * *

Report of Elections Committee.

We, the Committee on Elections for the year 1939, beg leave to submit the following report:

Total number of ballots received	1182
Total number of voided ballots	11
Net number of ballots	1171
For President, L. W. Hoffecker	1086
For First Vice-President, Harvey L. Hansen	840
For First Vice-President, William Brimelow	301
For Second Vice-President, J. D. Ferguson	1108
For General Secretary, M. Vernon Sheldon	1121
For Treasurer, George H. Blake	905
For Treasurer, V. Leon Belt	242
For Librarian and Curator, William S. Dewey	1105
For Members of the Board of Governors:	
Harry K. Boosel	532
Oce Curtis	431
Dr. John M. Henderson	857
Arthur B. Kelley	368
Martin F. Kortjohn	757
Walter P. Nichols	548
Lewis M. Reagan	445
J. Henri Ripstra	796
Nelson T. Thorson	618
Luther H. Whitt	228

We, the Committee on Elections having examined and tabulated all the ballots submitted, find that the following have been duly elected:

President, L. W. Hoffecker; First Vice-President, Harvey L. Hansen; Second Vice-President, J. D. Ferguson; General Secretary, M. Vernon Sheldon; Treasurer, Geo. H. Blake; Librarian and Curator, William S. Dewey; Members of the Board of Governors: Dr. John M. Henderson, J. Henri Ripstra, Martin F. Kortjohn, Nelson T. Thorson, Walter P. Nichols.

Respectfully submitted,
OTTO THOS, SGHIA, Chairman;
OSCAR G. SCHILKE,
H. E. MacINTOSH.

President Ripstra: You have heard the report of the Elections Committee. What is your pleasure?

Mr. Hunt: I move that the report be accepted with thanks. (Carried.)

President Ripstra:—We will now have a further report from the Resolutions Committee.

The November 1939 issue of "The Numismatist" carried the results of the year's elections, noting that of the 1,171 valid ballots received, 548 votes were cast for Walter P. Nichols as a member of the Board of Governors, sufficient to elect him.

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Office of L.W. Hofferker, President

El Paso, Texas

October 24, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am wondering what you want to do about the District Secretary for Massachusetts. Do you wish to continue in that office? If so, it will be all right with me. If not, why please suggest someone to take your place and I will be glad to appoint him.

I am having trouble right from the start with Sheldon. He seems to think that he is running the association and interprets the by-laws to suit himself. I wanted to break up the Hewitt-Sheldon-Ripstra combination as I do not think it is a good idea for us to hand out printing without bids to a rival magazine. Mr. Sheldon informs me that the by-laws make it compulsory for him to order all stationery. I cannot interpret them in that way. He even has gone so far as to order stationery for the office of the advertising manager this year, when I had not appointed anyone. I told Max and Dr. Henderson that we should eliminate him this time but they could not see it my way. Max, at least, has seen where I was right.

I have written all the clubs in Connecticut asking them to get together and suggest someone for District Secretary and would like to have your help up there.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours truly,

L.W. Hofferker

Ed Note: M. Vernon Sheldon, who served as general secretary when the preceding letter was written, was a controversial figure. But, then, virtually anyone serving in an ANA office was controversial to one person or another! Later, M. Vernon Sheldon was given the highest honor presented by the American Numismatic Association, the Farran Zerbe Award.

* * *

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

From the Office of L.W. Hofferker

El Paso, Texas

November 1, 1939

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Received your letter of the twenty-eighth and think you look at the secretaryship there in the right light and any time you get ready to make the change, let me know.

I have written all the clubs in Connecticut asking them to try and get together and tell me who they want.

You need never worry about my ever telling where I get my information. This carrying water on both shoulders is what started the trouble between Ripstra and myself. I wrote Kortjohn a letter and asked him to keep it confidential, and he showed it to Ripstra. He has been throwing it up to me every time he meets me since then and this is what the row started about in New York. It was a matter very vital to the good of the Association and I thought that being one of the Board of Governors, I had a right to talk it over with the rest, and told him in Columbus that I wrote the letter and asked him what he was going to do about it. But he said forget about it. Then he brought it up again.

In reference to Grant, I can't ask him any advice, as I am sorry to say I don't have the same opinion of him that you do. I was warned during my campaign by four or five of the old timers, not dealers, not to have anything to do with him. The way he handled that Rhode Island issue has made him lots of enemies all over the United States. I thought I was not going to get any of the coins from the commission and saw his ad in Baltimore before it was printed, and sent him the money for two sets. He returned the money to me, saying the price had gone up. So you can't say that I was late getting my order in as I saw the ad before it was printed.

I have sat on Sheldon pretty hard and told him what I thought of the way he was doing things. I had to back up on the printing of the stationery for he had already ordered it, and the by-laws say nobody but the president OR the secretary can order it. As he has ordered it first, I thought it was up to me to back down, but on the printing of this new directory we are getting out, I have already notified him by registered mail that I

have appointed Frank Duffield as chairman of the committee to get bids on the printing, so he is not going to hand this over to his friend Hewitt.

I did not like the idea of his closing up the financial report on July 31st and closing up the report on the new members on September 15th, thereby giving Ripstra over fourteen months in his year and me less than ten in mine. I guess he thinks that I haven't got much sense and he will keep slipping these things over, but he may get tripped up.

I find I am going to have to watch my step on everything that comes up.

This Central States Numismatic Society was sponsored by Hewitt, Ripstra and Frank Ross, and in my mind, is nothing more than a rival organization to get control of the ANA for that Chicago bunch. They elected this fellow Kelley for president, and Hammer is very active there. They are both playing up to me as hard as they can, and I have had three or four invitations to come and meet with them and be the principal speaker at their meeting. I have turned them down every time in a nice way, but now they have got another scheme. They want me to authorize all the district secretaries in those states to sponsor and work for what they call regional meetings, dropping the name of the Central States Numismatic Society, but notwithstanding, Kelley is still president, and no doubt, will continue in that office. They ask me my opinion about the Central States group. I answered them by telling them that as President of the ANA I did not think it would be ethical for me to offer any advice about what I thought was a rival association, but in answer to their question about the district secretaries, I told them I would not authorize any district secretaries to take any part in such meetings. If they wanted to hold state meetings under the supervision of the secretaries, that would be alright, but not interstate meetings, as I could not see any necessity for a local club, a state club, an interstate association and the ANA. If everybody would get together and work for the ANA we would not need any other association.

Kelley asked me to keep this confidential, but I didn't ask for it and I am not going to lie idle and let them put anything over on me. He and Hammer were both out in the open against me for the office of President, and I see no reason why I should let them use me now.

In reference to the date of the next convention, I already had it in mind to consult Phil before I set the date. I have heard from everybody but Dr. Henderson and Ripstra, but Harry Rapp sent me a letter that Ripstra had sent him, advising that he favors Detroit, and all the rest are of the same mind. I thought I would not be in a hurry about announcing the date, but will do so in the next two or three weeks.

I think I wrote you that I had already appointed Mr. Stiff and Ralph Hawks, and I am sure they will be alright.

I also have had several letters from Mr. Clarke, and I am glad that he takes the interest he does, for I will need lots of advice. I am sure that you will be with me and that I will have no trouble getting along with any of the Board as they are all my friends, except Ripstra and I don't pay any attention to him. His word is not worth a cent and he has that reputation even in his home town. I do not think he would have gotten the nomination there this year if it hadn't been that a man who had been out of town for two years came back and did not know the situation and nominated him.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours truly,

L.W. Hofferker

* * *

street, where a reception was held. President Newell, Secretary Noe, Curator Clark and Librarian Mosser were on hand to receive the guests as they arrived in groups. A couple of hours was spent in viewing the display of coins and medals in cases. These, of course, represented only a small part of the society's collection, undoubtedly the largest in the United States. Refreshments were served in an adjoining room.

Photograph Taken Under Difficulties.

Monday's weather conditions were a repetition of Sunday's, except that it was colder. As noon approached it was evident that an outdoor picture would be out of the question and arrangements were made to have it taken indoors—a photograph of a convention in session—just before recess, which would have been a novelty. However, shortly before 12 o'clock the rain ceased for a time and it was announced the photograph would be taken on the roof as originally planned. And in a biting wind we stood still long enough for the photographer to accomplish his purpose.



Left—Werner and Nichols examining exhibits.
Right—Nichols and Hoffecker exchange greetings

"Up Stairs, Down Stairs," at Rockefeller Center.

Monday afternoon, with the same unfavorable weather conditions prevailing, we made a tour of Rockefeller Center, after dividing into a number of small groups, each of which was placed in charge of a guide. Parts of the Center were not included in the tour. At times we found ourselves a couple of floors below the street level, and at other times we found it necessary to cross the crowded street to complete the tour. Perhaps the greatest thrill was when we entered the elevators to make the ascent to the observation roof in a remarkably short time. Had the weather been clear a remarkable view from this point could have been obtained.

The Rockettes Were Delightful.

A part of the balcony in Radio City Music Hall had been reserved for the A. N. A. party, and the members dropped it at times after 7 o'clock that suited their convenience. The picture was "Nurse Edith Cavell," a story of the World War laid in Belgium. The stage show, made up of half a dozen numbers was of the usual high class, and the famous Rockettes delighted the audience with their clever dancing.

Several pages in the November 1939 issue of "The Numismatist" were devoted to happenings at the American Numismatic Association convention in New York City a few months earlier. Among the illustrations was one showing Walter P. Nichols shaking hands with L. W. Hoffecker. Another picture shows Louis S. Werner examining a paper money exhibit. Werner continued to be an active collector and dealer until the late 1970s.

GEORGE H. BLAKE
12 Highland Avenue
Jersey City, N.J.
November 13, 1939

Dear Walter Nichols:

I do not know what you think of me as regards helping you on the paper money book, but I have made a small start.

When I saw you at the convention, I referred to the matter but did not get an opportunity to go far into it.

I am somewhat appalled at the idea of rewriting the whole subject, as my mind has not dealt much upon the matter since I gave up the idea of another edition of my "United States Paper Money," and to take it up again might possibly entail considerable research, to do a creditable job.

I am writing this to learn if you can give me a little idea of what you want me to particularly concentrate upon.

With a half invalid wife, together with other things I have to do, I have no difficulty in keeping busy all the time, but I assure you I want to do all I promised, and more too if possible.

Therefore, I shall be glad to have you indicate what I can best do in the matter.

I hope you are feeling well, and that I may hear from you soon.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Yours truly,
George H. Blake

* * *

B. MAX MEHL
Fort Worth, Texas
November 16, 1939
Dear Walter:

Am sending you under separate cover a copy of my next sale catalog containing the great Hale Collection.

You will find in this catalog the 1838 and 1852 silver dollars and also the 1876 \$3.00 gold piece you asked me about while in New York. If you are still in the market for these coins, shall be very glad, indeed, to have your bids for them and any other items which may be of interest to you and assure you they will be handled as faithfully as if you had yourself been present at the sale.

Have not heard much from our friend, Hoffecker, and I do not want to bother him with unnecessary correspondence, as I know he has a job on his hands. Then again, having stuck my neck out, for which I was roundly criticized, but since I did not get my head chopped off, I think it is probably best for me to now pull it in and avoid politics until the time I find it necessary to come to the defense of our cause.

I don't mind telling you that the "other bunch" will bear a lot of watching, as they do not have the welfare of the ANA at heart, but only their own selfish interest.

Whenever I can be of any assistance to you, do not hesitate to call on me.

Anticipating the pleasure of hearing from you, and with kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,
B. Max Mehl

* * *

M.H. BOLENDER
Orangeville, Illinois
November 20, 1939
Dear Friend Nichols:

Your letter of the 15th inst. at hand, relative to Lot 685, the first 6 volumes of *The Numismatist*.

We have had many bids and inquiries about this item, and I cannot remember when we had an item that was in more demand. Few have a whole set today, and very many want it. It is our opinion that the item will sell at a figure between \$50 and \$100, or even higher. A price of \$15

or \$20 you see would be about \$3 per volume which is what newer and common issues bring today. These first 6 volumes are very, very rare.

With kind wishes, and assuring you that Mrs. Bolender and I will be looking forward to seeing you in Detroit, I am,

Sincerely yours,
M.H. Bolender

* * *

B. MAX MEHL
For Worth, Texas
November 27, 1939

My Dear Walter:

Many thanks for your good letter of the 25th which I read with a great deal of interest, and also for your couple of bids which will have my very best attention at the proper time.

I believe you have the \$3.00 gold piece confused; you say that you would pay up to \$500.00 for the 1876 \$3.00 gold piece. You must have in mind the 1875, as the 1876 never has brought \$500.00, and about \$300.00 would be tops for it today, but I doubt very much if it will bring that much.

You have undoubtedly received my letter advising you that the sale has been advanced to next Tuesday, December 5th, so if you find any other items in the sale that interest you, don't hesitate to write me.

Am so extremely rushed now, (having received several hundred bids this morning), that I can't write you at length but I shall be delighted to hear from you whenever the spirit moves you.

With kindest regards, I am,

Cordially yours,
B. Max Mehl

* * *

Correspondence from 1940

SMITH & SON
2267-69 Clybourn Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
February 12, 1940
Dear Mr. Nichols:

We wish to thank you for your valued letter of the 9th. In regards to the prize set of Stellas, we are asking \$4,000.00. The mint record shows that there is a slight possibility of ten complete sets, however there is one complete in the U.S. Mint collection leaving a possible 9 sets.

These coins are just as rare as any other rarity bringing a tremendous price. We do not recall a complete set offered in the numismatic history such as this. This set would be a genuine bargain at \$10,000.00.

If you are interested in this set we shall be very glad to hear from you. Thanking you for your prompt attention in this matter, also awaiting an early reply, We are,

Very truly yours,
Frank J. Smith

Ed Note. The firm of Smith & Son flared into brief prominence around 1940 and handled numerous gold rarities, including the set of \$4 Stellas described above

* * *

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
From the Office of President
El Paso, Texas
March 11, 1940
Dear Walter:

Received your letter of the 2nd in which you state you had a letter from Mr. Clarke. I also have had a couple of letters from him. He still has the idea that he should go back two years with his audit and did not seem to want to accept my appointment unless he could but I think between you and Dr. Henderson you can talk him into it: maybe meet him half way. He wants to do this work to get back at Ripstra, and I do not blame him, but I do not want to spend the Association's money for what little satisfaction he would get.

I wish to thank you for your letter to Martin and also for your continued support. I set on Martin [Kortjohn] pretty hard after getting his last letter as I was tired of being convicted in every case before he heard the evidence. He wrote back apologizing and said he wanted to keep my friendship and he found out I was right about giving Mr. Clarke the reports as long as he was going to do the auditing. He knew this before he made the kick. What I object to is his listening to every Tom, Dick and Harry that goes to him and bawling me out without knowing what it is all about and sending his friends copies of his letters to me. I am not so anxious about retaining his friendship as he is a dangerous friend to have. He has made me every enemy I have in the Association. I was advised two years ago by people who knew him not to tell him anything I did not want him to peddle as he has that reputation...

Yours very truly,
L.W. Hoffercker, President

* * *

SMITH & SON
2267-69 Clybourn Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
May 14, 1940
Dear Mr. Nichols:

We wish to thank you for your valued letter of the 11th. We are very sorry that we are unable to accept your valuable offer. We offered this set to you as a dealer at \$4,000.00, the price asked collectors is \$5,000.00. We have an offer now from a wealthy collector who offers \$4,500.00 some cash and the rest *coins*.

Your customer does not realize how rare this set is, it is true that there is a slight possibility of ten coins being struck in 1879 Colled hair, and 1880 still checking further there is only two complete sets known at the present time and your customer if he is really a collector should be willing to pay you \$10,000.00 without question.

At the present time we could not dispose of this set as it has been placed in our mail bid sale of June 29th, this set is exceedingly rare and should find the real owner that is willing to pay the right price. Thanking you for your prompt attention in this matter, also awaiting an early reply. We are,

Very truly yours,
Frank J. Smith

* * *

THE TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Dallas, Texas
June 20, 1940
Dear Walter and Mrs. Nichols:

Through the kindness of Mr. Grinnell, I am just now learning that you have suffered as very severe illness and are now recovering from an operation. I regret exceedingly that you have had all this trouble and sincerely hope that your convalescence is progressing satisfactorily.

You know, Walter, we are planning big things in Detroit in August and I hope that you will be fully recovered and can be with us then.

Please have Mrs. Nichols write me from time to time on how you are progressing. I am anxious to hear.

Again expressing the hope that you are well along toward recovery, and with best thoughts and wishes, I am,

Sincerely,
W. A. Philpott

* * *

NUMISMATIC BOOK SHOP
1340 Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
June 22, 1940
My Dear Mr. Nichols:

I want to buy \$4.00 of 1880 Coiled Hair in gold, Proof condition.

Some time ago I learned you were looking for rare Stellas, I have the set except the above mentioned piece and if I cannot find it I plan to sell the 1879 Coiled Hair and 1880 Flowing Hair then keep the cheap one.

Should you have the 1880 Coiled Hair for sale please wire me collect. If price is favorable cashier's check will go forward immediately.

Sincerely yours,
R. Green

Ed Note: Ruth Green and her husband Charles were prominent Chicago dealers for many years and remained active until around 1960. Following the death of Charles, Ruth Green continued the business for a short time.

* * *



Smith & Son

ESTABLISHED 1920

TELEPHONE
DIVERSEY 2381

2267 69 CLYBOURN AVENUE

Chicago, Illinois

February 12, 1940

Walter P. Nichols
212 West Emerson St.
Melrose, Mass.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We wish to thank you for your valued letter of the 9th. In regards to the prize set of Stellas, we are asking \$4,000.00. The mint record shows that there is a slight possibility of ten complete sets, however there is one complete set in the U.S. Mint collection leaving a possible 9 sets.

These coins are just as rare as any other rarity bringing a tremendous price. We do not recall a complete set offered in the Numismatic history such as this. This set would be a genuine bargain at \$10,000.00.

If you are interested in this set we shall be very glad to hear from you. Thanking you for your prompt attention in this matter, also awaiting an early reply. We are,

FJS/a

Very truly yours,
SMITH & SON

Frank J. Smith
Frank J. Smith

1879 Flowing Hair — 500
1879 Corliss Hair — 9-12
1880 Flowing Hair — 16-20
1880 Corliss Hair — 9-12

The firm of Smith & Son was ephemeral on the numismatic scene. Around 1940 they issued catalogues and advertised rare gold coins (in particular), but in later years nothing was heard from them. The notations in pen at the lower left refer to estimated mintage quantities of the various \$4 varieties.

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

From the Office of the General Secretary
Chicago, Illinois

June 29, 1940

Dear Mr. Nichols:

This office has the pleasure of informing you that your name has been placed in nomination for the office of member of the Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association.

Will you kindly advise this office whether you accept or decline this honor?

Nominations will close July 15th, next. On that date this office will tender a report on the status of nominations to The Numismatist for publication in the August issue. This issue will also announce those names which will appear on the ballot.

Your early reply will be gratefully appreciated.

Most cordially yours,
M. Vernon Sheldon, General Secretary

* * *

GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP

109 Empire Street
Providence, Rhode Island

July 12, 1940

Dear Walter:

I have just learned that you have been incapacitated for some time. I spent the first three months of this year in the hospital and at home myself, following an attack of two of the severe types of pneumonia combined with a week of steady hiccuping and it is only within the last two weeks that I have felt at all like myself. The first illness of any consequence I have had during the last sixty-seven years. Now Walter, one of the worst troubles I have had since leaving the hospital has been to overcome imaginary troubles and I do not doubt but that you have the same experience. I was fed for days through my veins and I used up tank after tank of oxygen and that with the new discovery for pneumonia pulled me through, but I believe that if I had had less of imaginary troubles, I would have recovered much sooner. Whatever your sickness has been, try to get it off your mind and you will overcome at least part of your troubles.

I received a letter from Sheldon today advising that my name had been placed in nomination for the presidency of the ANA. I have replied that I could not accept the nomination at this time, but would accept nomination for vice president or the Board of Governors, but that my name was not to be used for any office that you are interested in. I do not know whether Hofferker is to run for another year or not, but if neither he or you are to run this year, my suggestion is that David Bullowa be nominated, as a tribute to our late brother and past president, Moritz Wormser. What is your reaction to this suggestion?

Here's hoping for your speedy recovery and as you know Walter, a letter from you is always welcome.

Sincerely yours,
Horace M. Grant

* * *

CHARLES F. RITTENHOUSE & COMPANY

One Federal Street
Boston, Mass.

July 24, 1940

Dear Walter:

My Rittenhouse is again spending the summer in Colorado, teaching at the summer session of the law school of the University of Colorado, as he did two years ago; therefore I am replying to your letter of July 22 addressed to him.

I am indeed sorry to learn that you have been having such a tough time. We had no idea that you had been in the hospital. However, I am very much relieved and very glad indeed to know that you have the worst of your troubles behind you and are improving. I hope that you get along rapidly through the rest of the summer.

Do not worry about business affairs. We will take care of your accounts and report to you completely with respect to them whenever you have a chance to see us. Best of luck until then.

Cordially yours,
Herbert E. Tucker

Ed Note: Walter P. Nichols was associated with the firm of Charles F. Rittenhouse and did much field work for them. This letter of July 24, 1940 is an early reference to Nichols' illness.

* * *

A. KOSOFF

122 East 57th Street
New York City

July 31, 1940

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We feel it only fair to advise you of bids received subsequently to yours which will tend to increase your unlimited bids on the several volumes indicated on your bid sheet. The following are the highest bids which you will have to top in order to be successful, up to this writing.

Lot 3 \$10.00; Lot 4 \$7.50; Lot 191 \$15.00; Lot 310 \$4.00; Lot 360 \$4.00; Lot 456 \$15.00 and Lot 532 \$4.00.

Should you care to have us continue your buy bids on these lots, you need not reply as the books are being kept with your buy bids included. On those lots of which we have made no mention, we believe that the bids are sufficiently low for your buy bids to stand.

We sincerely trust you will keep this matter confidential.

Very sincerely yours,
A. Kosoff

* * *

DAVID M. BULLOWA

10 West 86th Street
New York City

August 3, 1940

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Many thanks for your nice note of the 2nd.

An old time collector like you should know, that there are no secrets in the numismatic world! I had known for several months that you have been ill, but took no cognizance of it, as I knew that you did not want it known. It was only during the past few weeks that a mutual friend suggested that I write you, and thereupon I did!

I am not sure that you are going to be unwise in skipping this year's convention. There are times when I wish I didn't have to go (and I'm sure that when some of the predicted scrapping commences, I'll be quite sorry that I'm present). Certain personalities seem bound to clash, and I don't think I'm equal to the task of ironing them out.

What I do look forward to particularly, is seeing some of Mr. Grinnell's collection. That is, I am sure, a treat which you have already had many times.

Trusting that you will have a beneficial summer, and continue to gain strength constantly, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely,
David M. Bullowa

* * *

A. KOSOFF
122 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY
PLAZA B-2656

NUMISMATIST

JEWELER

July 31, 1940

Walter P. Nichols,
P. O. B. 3,
Emerys Mills, Mass.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We feel it only fair to advise you of bids received subsequently to yours which will tend to increase your unlimited bids on the several volumes indicated on your bid sheet. The following are the highest bids which you will have to top in order to be successful, up to this writing.

Lot # 3	\$10.00
4 } one only	7.50
191	15.00
310	4.00
360	4.00
456	15.00
532	4.00

Should you care to have us continue your buy bids on these lots, you need not reply as the books are being kept with your buy bids included. On those lots of which we have made no mention, we believe that the bids are sufficiently low for your buy bids to stand.

We sincerely trust you will keep this matter confidential.

Very sincerely yours,


A. Kosoff

AK:MR

In 1940 Abe Kosoff was rapidly becoming a prominent figure on the commercial numismatic scene. His Numismatic Gallery, later conducted with Abner Kreisberg, achieved success and fame and handled many important properties. Abe Kosoff remained an important factor in numismatics and in the 1950s founded the Professional Numismatists Guild.

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

August 16, 1940

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of August 12th received and glad to hear from you and, while you do not say much about yourself, am quite sure you are making favorable progress towards recovery as your letter indicates you are feeling considerably better.

I am pleased to advise you that I attended the meeting of the coin club last evening and told them I had received a letter from you and you sent your kindest regards to all members. As you no doubt know, the Detroit Coin Club holds a membership in the ANA and the voting of their ticket was freely discussed and I am pleased to advise you that your name was one of those to be voted for. They all seem to feel very friendly and think you can depend on receiving most of their votes.

There seems to be quite a little friction between Hoffecker and Sheldon which was also discussed at the meeting and while practically all the members felt very sorry that this condition existed it was decided to vote for John W. Gregor of Cleveland for secretary. Hoffecker is the only candidate for president and it would be too bad if Sheldon is reelected as no doubt the friction would still exist. However, I would not be surprised if Sheldon would be elected as so many of the members send their proxies direct by mail and will not know of the existing conditions. So far as you and I are concerned I am sure we are not going to let the subject worry us.

I received a letter from Philpott and he expects to arrive here Thursday morning, the 22nd. Hoping this finds you making further progress towards recovery and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

August 30, 1940

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of August 26th received and glad to hear from you and know that you were improving, and trust it will not be long before you will have fully recovered.

The convention was one the largest and best attended of any ever held and the exhibits were the largest, I believe. Every case was filled, including the 50 new cases purchased this year. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and were free to express themselves that way.

Sorry I could not obtain the result of the election. I was extremely busy until late yesterday afternoon and did not have time to see any of the officers before they left. I am enclosing one of the official convention medals. I am also enclosing a Lincoln token which I had made for the occasion. Please accept these with my compliments.

With every best wish and kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

SYRACUSE COIN SHOP

526 S. Warren St.
Syracuse, New York

September 3, 1940

Dear Walter:

Your letter of August 26th received, and be assured that it was a pleasure to hear from you, especially in knowing that you are now recuperating from your serious operation.

I was mainly interested in knowing your true physical condition, that is the reason I called by phone to contact anyone at your home.

With reference to various items you mention that will prove of interest to me, just let this matter rest for some time until you are entirely back to your normal health again.

My brother-in-law, Mr. Tanner, joins me in wishing you a speedy recovery with the help of God.

Kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Barney Bluestone

* * *

GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP

109 Empire Street
Providence, Rhode Island

September 24, 1940

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The following is the list of the officers elected at the convention this year, which I have just received today from Secretary Sheldon.

President L.W. Hoffecker, 1st vice-president Harvey L. Hansen, 2nd vice-president J. Douglas Ferguson, general secretary M. Vernon Sheldon, treasurer, George Blake, librarian T.R. Hammer, editor F.G. Duffield, assistant editor, D. Bullowa, director of publicity L. M. Reagan. Board Members: J. Henry Ripstra, Martin Kortjohn, Vernon L. Brown, George Bauer and Nelson Thorson.

Cordially yours,
H. M. Grant

* * *

GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP

109 Empire Street
Providence, Rhode Island

September 24, 1940

Dear Walter:

The new Board members consist of three of the past presidents. I believe that two of the old workers should be on the Board at all times to help and assist the new members, but the election year after year of Bauer, Thorson and Ripstra does not seem necessary. I also believe that there should be a third vice-president and either the second or third vice-president should represent New England.

Ted Hammer is a fine fellow and outside of the expense of moving the library, I think he is a wise choice for librarian. Max Schwartz is a fine fellow too, but I could not see how an attorney could devote the necessary time that a librarian should give to the position.

I expect to go over to New Bedford tomorrow night to talk to their club.

A Mrs. Nicolls of Seattle, Washington, has just left my store. She has adopted the colonial way of spelling "Nichols."

Hope to see you when you return and with best wishes for your continued improvement in health, I am,

Sincerely yours,
H.M. Grant

* * *

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO.

95 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

October 10, 1940

Dear Mr. Nichols:

We hope that as the time passes, you are steadily progressing.

We happened to acquire very recently a pair of \$5.00 bills of the 1902-1908 series, issued on the Lenox National Bank of Lenox, Massachusetts, February 22nd, 1909. The two notes are hand signed by the cashier and president, and have the same serial numbers, differing only in the plate letter. The two notes are scrips, but have been folded in the center, no doubt from many years preservation in a vault. The top margin of the note is uncut and has about two dozen initials of various printings. We have priced the uncut pair at \$15.00 and in the event that you are interested, we will very gladly submit them for inspection.

Looking forward to hearing from you and thanking you for your many past favors.

Very sincerely,
David M. Bullowa

Ed Note: The preceding letter is written on New Netherlands Coin Co. stationery. The New Netherlands firm was formed by Moritz Wormser, a past president of the ANA, in 1936. For the next several decades of its existence it enjoyed a fine reputation.

* * *

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

From the Office of the President
El Paso, Texas

December 5, 1940

Dear Walter:

Received your letter of November 30th.

In reference to your running for president, I think there could be quite a bit of enthusiasm worked up about it between now and the next election. There is no question in my mind but that Ripstra will run again even if he has to fall out with Kortjohn and Kortjohn also wants the job badly. As you say, he has no personality and cannot even express his opinion; he gets up and stutters and stammers and does not know what he is talking about, and, if anything, he is more stubborn than Ripstra as you probably learned while you were on the auditing committee with him. He commenced telling me what to do before he was ever elected a member of the board so thinks his opinion is better than that of anyone else.

Wish to thank you for your confidence in me in saying you would like to see me elected for another year but I do not think anyone could have the office three years and I will be very glad when my year is over as with Kortjohn, Ripstra and Sheldon to get along with it is not very pleasant.

Note what you say about putting on a campaign. If you will permit, I would like to give you a little advice. Frank Ross wanted to be elected to the Board and he sent out about 3500 circulars and I believe there were nine men running and he ran 9th. My suggestion is that you let someone like Philpott and Mr. Grinnell manage your campaign. You might get out the letters under their suggestions and let them do the mailing. You, of course, could take care of the expense and I am sure you would get a great many more votes than that way than if you asked for the office yourself. Mr. Clarke could also be of a lot of assistance to you.

To make things run smooth it will be necessary to get rid of Sheldon as he is right there in Chicago with Ripstra and does not make a move without telling Ripstra about it. They claim they hardly ever see each other but I can read between the lines in the letters I receive and they give themselves away once in a while. Mr. Gregor ran pretty good last year but I did not get started soon enough backing him. I do not know but that Dave Bullowa could be induced to run this year and am sure he could pull more votes than Mr. Gregor did. I will feel him out and see what he thinks about it.

I can furnish you a lot of dope on things Sheldon has done that would convince any fairminded man that he was not a good man for the association. The thing they have criticized me the most about was the amount of money I saved the association by taking the letting of three contracts out of Sheldon's hands. I probably exceeded my authority in doing so but

I saved around \$700.00 or \$800.00. Stowell's price on the printing has always been about half of any other bid we got and I got a resolution through that he was to be considered the official printer but Ripstra said there was no better printer in the world than Lee Hewitt and I see Sheldon is still slipping him some of the work.

I do not know why Mr. Rowe has not done anything. I am afraid that he is peeved because we did not pay him for the work he did last year. I did everything in my power to get a check for \$75.00 for him but Kortjohn and Ripstra fought it and finally Mr. Brown said he did not think Mr. Rowe should be paid and I have not heard anything from Mr. Rowe. Surely how he will not lay down on us as he is a very good man, and, not casting any reflection on you as I know you told me that Kortjohn ran things his own way while you were auditing the books on account of his being chairman, this was the most complete audit we ever had as they made Sheldon take all of his cards over so they could check the subscriptions. They straightened out Duffield's account on that \$100.00 which Kortjohn said he could not find. Mr. Clarke told me Kortjohn admitted covering up something one time to keep from hurting the feelings of someone. I do not suppose it amounted to a great deal but there was no covering up this time as I told the auditors to be on their guard and not take any instructions from anybody but me.

Note what you say about appointing Mr. Cornish as district secretary in Maine and will be glad to do so and am writing to him today.

Glad you are still improving in health. Suppose you heard that Herb Walker passed away. He attended the convention but looked very bad and finally went to the hospital and did not get out again.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,
L.W. Hofferker

* * *

B. MAX MEHL
Fort Worth, Texas

December 19, 1940

Dear Walter:

Thanks a lot for your letter of the 14th. Regret to learn that you have been indisposed but glad to know that you are again on deck.

The 1875 \$3.00 gold piece I have is in the Dunham Sale and, of course, it cannot be sold privately. In fact I have just catalogued it yesterday. It is the most perfect Gem Proof I have ever seen of this or any other \$3.00 gold piece. It is from a Proof set purchased by Mr. Dunham in 1906. He purchased the complete set for the huge sum of \$420.00. Apparently, it was one of the first Proof sets struck, as it is unusually bold, sharp, with complete wire edge on both sides.

Of course, just what the coin may bring, no one can tell. You undoubtedly know that the last record, made in 1937, was \$1,750.00. This may seem top price, but then I recall the day when I turned the coin down for \$250.00, and for awhile it was selling for around \$400.00; then it jumped to \$1,000.00, and the last one I had at private sale some nine years ago, I sold for \$1,500.00. I know of one specimen which sold since then for \$2,000.00.

The Dunham catalogue will be even a more glorious catalogue than I had anticipated, as it will contain near four thousand lots and it will be the most elaborate coin sale catalogue that has ever been published anywhere. I have just seen a dummy of it and I am sure that when you see the real catalogue, you will agree with me that it is all and more than I claim for it.

This is also a fine opportunity to extend to you and all who are dear to you my very best wishes for the holiday season.

With kindest regards

Cordially yours,
B. Max Mehl

* * *

Correspondence from 1941

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

January 8, 1941

My Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your letter of January 4th received and glad to hear from you and know that your health must be improving when you write such good letters.

Note what you say regarding the collection of continental and colonial currency which belonged to a friend who recently passed on. I have never specialized in this currency, although I have quite a lot of it, but have made up my mind I would not add to it as it requires a lot of time in addition to the cost and I am kept busy in trying to improve my collection especially since I am trying to complete the coins.

Note what you say regarding the price asked by Mehl for a \$3.00 1875 gold piece. He may be able to find a buyer at his price as these items are extremely scarce and there are some collectors of gold who do not mind paying extreme prices for rarities. I never expect to buy one of this date, in fact have not saved a space for it. I have all the other \$3.00 gold pieces, practically all Proof or Uncirculated.

Thanking you for your kindness in writing me and hoping to hear from you again in the near future and with kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

ALBERT A. GRINNELL
1515 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

March 10, 1941

My Dear Mrs. Nichols:

Your letter of March 7th received and very sorry to hear that Walter was so seriously ill. However, do you think that he or you should give up hope of his ultimate recovery. With spring almost here and summer not far away we will hope that he will gain strength and be able to sit in the sunshine which no doubt will help him very much.

I am enclosing a clipping from the Detroit Free Press of January 24th which describes the presentation of a gold medal to me at the 400th meeting of the Detroit Coin Club at the Detroit-Leland. I have secured one of these medals in silver and am enclosing the same with my compliments and best wishes to Walter. When Walter visited me a few years ago we attended one of the Detroit club meetings at the Detroit Leland and he will undoubtedly recall the meeting.

I sincerely hope and pray that Walter's condition will improve and that he will be restored to health in the near future.

With kindest regards to both of you, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Albert A. Grinnell

* * *

STACK'S
32 West 46th Street
New York, New York

July 16, 1941

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It has been quite some time since I have heard from you and every time I think that I ought to write to you, something else gets in my path, and

I fail to do it. I am dreadfully sorry that this has happened, but I sincerely hope that you are feeling better and that you are on the road to complete recovery.

I don't know whether you have left for Maine, as you usually do at this time of the year, but in any event please accept my best wishes again for your good health.

I was over to Philadelphia the other evening, and the convention discussion came up, and our talk for officers was naturally a topic of conversation amongst some of the collectors. Naturally the very first thing that I brought up was the fact that only a man of your character and ability would make a successful president. Of course you know that in this particular organization unless you are a person sticking your nose into everyone's business, you don't get very far, and that is one of the reasons why I was in the hopes that this time would have been the year where your name would have been nominated for president of the ANA. I certainly would have liked to have you for my leader, and that has been one of my fondest hopes.

I hope that the coming year will find you in your old splendid robust health so I can forge your name in the foreground for president.

Again accept my sincerest best wishes and kindest regards to Mrs. Nichols,

Respectfully yours,
Joe Stack

* * *

Deaths.

WALTER P. NICHOLS.

On August 8, 1941, Walter P. Nichols passed away, following an illness of several months. Mr. Nichols was a life member of the American Numismatic Association, an associate member of the American Numismatic Society, past president of the Boston Numismatic Society, and also former member of the Board of Governors of the A. N. A. for the years 1939-40. Mr. Nichols was A. N. A. District Secretary for the State of Massachusetts.

Mr. Nichols was born 52 years ago in Somerville, Mass. He attended the Somerville schools, and was a graduate of Northeastern University. As a certified public accountant he did much work for banks through New England. He was deputy Sheriff for York county, Maine, an elective office, in which he was serving his fourth term.

In 1936 Mr. Nichols was very active in connection with the issue of the York County, Maine, commemorative half dollar. In sponsoring the issue, he served as secretary and distributor for the commission.

Mr. Nichols was also active in fraternal societies, having held membership in the following: Wyoming Lodge (Melrose), Waverly Chapter (Melrose), Boston Council, St. Bernard Commandery (Boston), Boston-Lafayette Lodge of Perfection (senior warden), Giles F. Yates Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Mount Oliver Chapter of Rose Croix, Massachusetts Consistory, 33d degree, and Aleppo Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

Mr. Nichols was known to a wide circle of numismatic friends and was particularly prominent in the collecting of rare United States coins and paper money. He is known to have many unusual and rare notes, and a remarkably fine collection of early U. S. cents and silver.

As a collector Mr. Nichols attended several conventions during the past ten years and formed many friendships. He was one of the most popular of the convention-goers, and his friendly smile and handshake will be missed by many. Services for Mr. Nichols were held at the Waterman Chapel, in Boston, the Rev. F. E. Charrier, of the North Parish Congregational Church, Sanford, Maine, officiating. His ashes will rest in Oakdale Cemetery, Sanford, Maine.

Mr. Nichols is survived by his widow, the former Faith E. Emery, whom he married in 1916, and two brothers, an uncle and a nephew.

EXHIBITORS AT PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION PLEASE NOTE.

Those members having exhibits at the Philadelphia Convention of the A. N. A. are requested to send to The Numismatist for publication a general description of their exhibits. Blank forms were given to exhibitors for this purpose. A number of these have not yet been returned. If you did not receive one of the blank forms, please write a description of your exhibit and return promptly to The Numismatist. We hope to publish a complete list of exhibits in the October issue.

The Greek 50 drachma note of 1927 shows upon the reverse an ancient Greek coin with Apollo on the obverse and Aesculapius on the reverse.

The Rock of Gibraltar is depicted upon their bank notes.

^dThe Numismatist" in September 1941 carried the obituary of Walter P. Nichols.

Deaths.

WALTER P. NICHOLS.

In the last issue of The Numismatist we noted the sad passing of Walter P. Nichols, life member of the A. N. A. We have been fortunate in securing some additional facts about Mr. Nichols, through the courtesy of several friends, and present them in this issue with his portrait.



Walter P. Nichols

Mr. Nichols was active in the work of the Boston Numismatic Society from the time of his election to membership in 1931 until his final illness prevented him from attending meetings. He was elected a vice-president of the society in 1935 and was most active in the handling of the Jubilee medal which the Society issued in limited numbers, largely for presentation to other numismatic organizations. In 1936 he received a vote of thanks from the society in connection with the handling of this medal by his committee.

In 1936 Mr. Nichols was also very active in the distribution of the York County (Maine) half dollars, with which his name will long be associated and always kindly remembered.

In 1937 Mr. Nichols was elected president of the Boston Numismatic Society and served one term. His activities in numismatics won him the respect of all, and following his term on the A. N. A.'s Board of Governors his tenure might have become a candidate for higher office had not his health interfered.

Walter P. Nichols was not widely known, yet to the intimate circle that surrounded the gathering and especially of knowing him he was a true friend.

More information concerning Walter P. Nichols was carried in a follow-up obituary appearing in The Numismatist, October 1941. The last two paragraphs indicate the esteem in which Mr. Nichols was held by his contemporaries.

Epilogue

SYRACUSE COIN SHOP

526 S. Warren Street
Syracuse, New York
August 18, 1941

Dear Mrs. Nichols:

Just returned from the mountains and again allow me to extend my sincere sympathy in your hour of sorrow.

At the time I sent you the condolence telegram from Liberty, N.Y., where I was vacationing I was very badly sunburned and did not want to mention this fact in my wire. It was utterly impossible for me to attend the funeral, as I was practically bedridden and ran a slight temperature from the severe burns. I am completely recovered from the effects and Mr. Tanner and I trust you are bearing up well under your great loss. I know that God will help you get yourself together and give you strength throughout the coming days.

It is no time to discuss the matter which I am about to write you but it is for your protection, therefore, I must frankly state for you to hold up on your late husband's estate until such time permits for me to examine contents and by so doing, I can give you the very best advice within my power for your benefit.

You can take it for granted that I am not only a coin dealer but a true friend as well. Should you decide to dispose of the entire collection, I shall give you the very highest cash offer, more than any other dealer in the country could possibly pay or place them at auction and derive more money than any other dealer. This comes from the bottom of my heart.

Any time you wish to communicate with me, I will be prepared to make the trip at once.

Mr. Tanner joins me in wishing you the very best of health, I remain
Sincerely yours,
Barney Bluestone

* * *

GRANT'S HOBBY SHOP

109 Empire Street
Providence, Rhode Island
August 29, 1941

Dear Mrs. Nichols:

This is the first opportunity I have had to write you since Walter's funeral. I feel sure it was his desire to be released from his suffering and hard as it must be for you, I am certain you would not want him back unless he could be restored to health.

I attended the funeral of Kenneth Burke, Secretary of our Providence Coin Club, three days after Walter's funeral. Kenneth was only twenty-seven years old and left a young wife and a little girl two years old. Mrs. Burke seemed quite bitter. They were a very devoted couple and both dearly loved their little girl. We certainly cannot understand why these sad partings must take place.

The American Numismatic Convention met in Philadelphia last week. Walter attended so many of the conventions in the past it seemed as though he should be somewhere around the hotel or convention hall this time. I know you would appreciate the many expressions of sadness over Walter's death which I heard while there. I feel sure, had he retained his health, he would have been our candidate for president of the association and elected at this time. I know it was one of his desires and I deeply regret that we could not work for his election.

In talking with the editor of *The Numismatist* he told me that he did not have a photograph of Walter. It is too late at this time to have one appear in the September issue, but he would like to have one to use in the October number. I am sure it would be pleasing to Walter's many numismatic friends to see his picture in *The Numismatist*. If that is your desire, please mail the photograph to Mr. Frank G. Duffield, editor, 4215 Fernhill Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

I was glad that it was possible for me to show my respect and friendship by attending Walter's funeral. I would like very much to have a photograph of Walter for myself. If you send one to Mr. Duffield to use and can spare it, I would be pleased to have him return it to me after he has finished with it.

Very sincerely yours,
Horace M. Grant

* * *

In Retrospect.

By THOMAS L. ELDER, A. N. A. 140, Pleasantville, N. Y.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the American Numismatic Association is indeed an event to be commemorated. As one of the oldest living members, having joined about 1896, I can think back numismatically for that entire half century of numismatic beginnings, of its experiences and of its progress. For numismatics has made progress. The astounding number of new numismatic clubs and societies which have sprung up during the last twenty-five years verifies that. It was my honor to found the New York Numismatic Club. F. C. Higgins, A. R. Frey and myself got the idea of holding a meeting early in 1907 in New York City, and it was done. That was 34 years ago.

Numismatic progress is apt to continue, barring a further world convulsion or upheaval over here.

With all my claims to long membership I am not yet 67 years old, able to stand up straight and to eat a good meal. I still like coins.

Several points stand out. All of the big collectors do not live today. There are indeed a few of them, and a great many good numismatists, but many of the numismatically great belonged to the rather dim past of say twenty-five to fifty years ago. The Parmeleees, the Bushnells, the Stickneys and the two Smiths were examples worth citing; also those indefatigable numismatists, S. Hudson and Henry Chapman, profound lovers of coins and well versed in numismatics. Their dignified style of cataloguing will be missed. Some new innovations may not be recorded as improvements.

The period from, say, 1892 to 1925 was what one might call the golden age of coin collecting here, for the reason that we had more enthusiastic big collectors alive then. True we have many more coin collectors today, but I do not favor the decided trend among them to date collecting and the overemphasizing of the importance of small coins, or coins of small value and denomination. If this helps numismatics, well and good, only I do not believe such collecting marks the Alpha and Omega of coin collecting, because



THOMAS L. ELDER

Dean of American Dealers.

it does not and never will. Nor will its intellectual rewards be great, though it furnish recreation and relaxation. A coin of Brutus points to history and notable events. The issuance of a small cent in 1941 does not. Nor does it contribute any tota to mental improvement or esthetic beauty.

There are a number of fields and numismatic opportunities beckoning to the new collector. One of these is the neglected token and medal field. These branches, even the American series, are most important and I predict will gain many new recruits, as they deserve.

Our Colonial and Continental series is large and varied, presents an attractive and instructive field and should be better patronized.

As a member for forty five years I salute the Association and its members on this notable occasion the Fiftieth Anniversary.

In the same issue that carried an obituary for Walter P. Nichols, Thomas L. Elder, at that time designated as the dean of American rare coin dealers, gave some recollections concerning "the good old days." Interestingly, he called the period from 1892 to 1925 "the golden age of coin collecting."

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Q737 NICHOLS, WALTER P.
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AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE COIN HOBBY IN THE
1930S : THE WALTER P. NICHOLS FILE

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